


THE *IMAGO DEI*:
God's Image in Humanity

Rev. Carl B. Smith II, Ph.D.
Living Faith Anglican Church
"The Gathering," May 2019


1



**Paul's Appeal to
Genesis in Acts 17:24-31**

*The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since **he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. (continued...)***


2



Paul's Appeal to Genesis in Acts 17:24-31

*Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for “**In him we live and move and have our being**”; as even some of your own poets have said, “**For we are indeed his offspring.**” **Being then God's offspring**, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an **image** formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of **ignorance** God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to **repent**, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by **a man whom he has appointed**; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.*

3



Imago Dei: A Scriptural “Thread”

THE BIBLE IS...

- Theocentric
- Christocentric
- Anthropocentric

THE BIBLICAL META-NARRATIVE:

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Redemption/Transformation
4. Consummation

4

The Biblical Meta-Narrative: God's Grand Story of Redemption

Creation	Fall	Redemption	Consummation
Creation Mandates Gen.1-2	Anti-Creation Chaos & Curse Gen.3; Rom.8	New Creation Gen.3-Rev.20	New Heaven & New Earth Rev.21-22

Implications:


- Where should we begin when considering cultural issues?
 - Note our prayer: "Thy Kingdom Come!"
- If we begin our "narrative" with creation and consummation (the "ideal" categories of the narrative), does it impact our position and perspective with regard to cultural issues?

5

The Biblical Meta-Narrative: God's Grand Story of Redemption

Creation	Fall	Redemption	Consummation
Creation Mandates Gen.1-2	Anti-Creation Chaos & Curse Gen.3; Rom.8	New Creation Gen.3-Rev.20	New Heaven & New Earth Rev.21-22
<i>Imago Dei</i> <u>Created in</u> Untested Humanity	<i>Imago Dei</i> <u>Marred</u> Through Humanity's Fall	<i>Imago Dei</i> <u>Revived</u> Through Regeneration	<i>Imago Dei</i> <u>Restored</u> Through Glorification

6



The Image of God Created in Untested Humanity (Genesis 1-2).

[Genesis 1:26-27](#); [Psalm 8](#)

What is the Image of God (*Imago Dei*)?


Historically: (1) Rationality, (2) Body/Soul/Spirit, (3) Androgyny (Male/Female Unity), etc.

Biblically, the image can be characterized 2 ways:

- 1) **Abilities** – Human Capacities {**Functional**}
- 2) **Attributes** – Character Traits or Qualities {**Moral or Interpersonal**}

Note: The “IMAGE” is what we “ARE”, not something we “HAVE” or “POSSESS”!
(Ryan Peterson)


7



The Image of God Created in Untested Humanity (cont.)

- 1) **Abilities** – Human Capacities/Functions
 - Relational – Gen.1:26, 27; 2-3
 - Rational – Gen.2:19-20
 - Volitional – Gen.2:16-17
 - Emotional – Gen.2:20, 25
 - Spiritual – Throughout chapter 2
 - **Dominionship** – Gen.1:26; 2:19-20
- 2) **Attributes** – Character Traits ([Ex.34:6-7](#))
 - Incommunicable – cannot be shared
 - Communicable – shared with creatures

8




The Image of God Created in Untested Humanity (cont.)

“The Image of God is the sum total of all the ABILITIES and ATTRIBUTES that make human persons like God.”

Image relates to → WHOLENESS.
Entrance of Sin → BROKENNESS.

9



What are the Implications?

All human beings have intrinsic value because they are the “Image of God.”

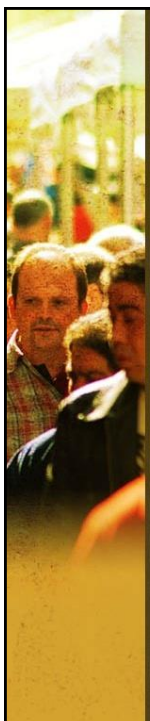
This concept of human identity trumps all other “identity-markers”, including gender, ethnicity, health, nationality, citizenship, economic status, social class, age, born/unborn, mental capacity, religion, etc.

DO YOU AGREE?

What about...

- Political party (?)
- Sexual-orientation (?)

10




Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

[{Return}](#)

11



Psalms 8

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

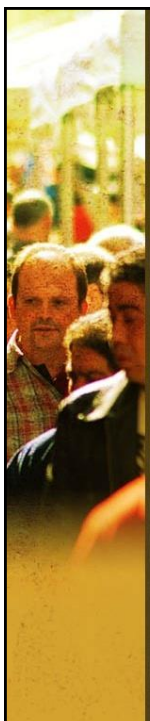
Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

What is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?

(Continued...)

12



Psalm 8


Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,

All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! *[{Return}](#)*

13



What Is God Like? Exodus 24:6-7

Establishing His Covenant with Moses:

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.” *[{Return}](#)*

14