



A Great

Part 11

SALVATION

*The Imago Dei – The Image of God
Various Verses*

We defined the Gospel, looked at false gospels and 3 “phases” of salvation and studied Redemption, Peace and Hope, Adoption and being Eternally Secure. Last time we looked at what it means to be Delivered: what we were delivered from, unto and how and why God delivers us...

A. Genesis 1-2 - The Image of God

...**Genesis 1:26-28** and **2:7** - 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." 27So God created man in his own **image**, in the **image** of God he created him; male and female he created them.

A. *Genesis 1-2* - The Image of God

God created mankind in *His image*, meaning “image, likeness, statue, model, drawing or shadow,” and *likeness* means “*likeness*,” often used to *compare 2 different things*. So, we are made in **God's image** and **likeness**!

What does it mean to be made in God's image...

A. *Genesis 1-2* - The Image of God

Humans are *physical*, and *spiritual beings*.
Atheists say all we are is *physical and not spiritual*. False teaching says we are *just spiritual* and the *physical* is not important and hinders us from finding our self or fulfillment, as in *Eastern Philosophies* and *Gnosticism...*

A. *Genesis 1-2* - The Image of God

2 Corinthians 4:4 - In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of **Christ**, who is the **image** of God.

Colossians 1:15 - He is the **image** of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

B. Genesis 3 - The Shattering of His Image

...Genesis 5:1-3 – This is the book of the generations of Adam. When **God** created man, he made him in the **likeness** of God. 2Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. 3When **Adam** had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in **his own likeness, after his image**, and named him Seth.



B. Genesis 3 - The Shattering of His Image

Genesis 9:6 - (God said) Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own **image**.

James 3:9 - With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the **likeness** of God.

***C. Rom. 8:28-29, 2 Cor. 3:18, Eph. 4:20-24,
Col. 3:10 - The Restoration of His Image***

...In salvation, God *restores to us* what was *lost* in the Garden of Eden - ***His image***. God sent the Holy Spirit to teach and conform us into *His image*. There is work that has to be done in our lives, which is where *positional* and *practical sanctification* come in...

**C. Rom. 8:28-29, 2 Cor. 3:18, Eph. 4:20-24,
Col. 3:10 - The Restoration of His Image**

Romans 8:28-29a - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the **image** of his Son...

Joseph!

Genesis 50:20a - But as for you, you meant it for evil against me; but God meant it for good... "*Meant*" means "***to weave or fabricate***" or "***organize together for a purpose.***"

Romans 8:29.

He ***weaves*** all things to accomplish His plan and purpose to ***make us more like Jesus.***

**C. Rom. 8:28-29, 2 Cor. 3:18, Eph. 4:20-24,
Col. 3:10 - The Restoration of His Image**

2 Corinthians 3:18 – But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same **image** from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

The context is the *fading glory of the Old Covenant* and the *growing glory of the New*. Mirrors then were **polished metal**. They gave a **partial** but **distorted picture** of the one looking in the mirror...

D. Being Conformed to His Image

*What Adam **forfeited** in his sin in the Garden, Christ forever **gains** for us in salvation.*

...we are to cooperate with His work in us.

That means we have some responsibility too in being conformed or changed into His image.

D. Being Conformed to His Image

Colossians 3:10 – and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the **image** of Him who created him...

Paul said to put off evil things associated with our *former or old self or lifestyle*, and put on the *new man*, like *clothes*. This new man ***looks like Christ***.

D. Being Conformed to His Image

Ephesians 4:22-24 - ...put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24and to put on the new self, created after the **likeness of God** in **true righteousness** and **holiness**.

D. Being Conformed to His Image

First, we look at the **character of God** ...*in true righteousness and holiness. Truth is included, or true knowledge. Righteousness is doing what is right in God's eyes. Holiness is separateness from the things that defile...* But *in Christ*, that image is being reformed in us. Paul contrasts the **old life** or old man with the **new life** or new man *in Christ...*

D. Being Conformed to His Image

Second, how does God conform us to *His image*? *Hebrews 12:7-11* talks about God's discipline or chastening, for sin, and to train us. The *purpose* is to partake of His *holiness*, and to do that, God uses *discipline* and *difficulty*.

D. Being Conformed to His Image

James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3for you know that the testing of your faith produces **steadfastness**. 4And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be **perfect and complete** (*mature*), lacking in nothing.

God tests us!

D. Being Conformed to His Image

1 Corinthians 15:49 – And as we have borne (*wore as in clothing*) the **image** of the *man* of dust (*Adam*), we shall also bear (*wear as in clothing*) the **image** of the heavenly *Man* (*Christ*).

The context is our new bodies at ***Glorification***.
God purposed in Christ to restore His lost image...

D. Being Conformed to His Image

We want to create others in our image and our likeness.... We try to make others *into what we think they should be!* We say, “It is for their good” or “Act this way or do this thing...” or “Why can’t you be like...” It can be something simple or complex, but in our **pride**, we want others to **do** what we want them to do, **when** we want them to do it, **how** we want them to do it, and **be** who we want them to be. We *don’t give them the freedom to be themselves...*

D. Being Conformed to His Image

On the **flipside**, we can ***stop allowing others*** to control us is to set boundaries, learn to say “***no***” and be **discerning**. Ask, “Is this true?” “Is this Biblical and do I need to consider this and change?” and “Is this someone’s opinion and if so, is it right or wrong, based on what the Bible says?” ***No one can force us to be who they want us to be unless we allow them...***