



Sermon Notes: “Imago Dei”

Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7, Colossians 1:15, Hebrews 1:3, John 8:36, Mark 8:35

1.4.25

KEY TAKEAWAY:

The moment you were conceived, you became an image-bearer. Not because of anything you did, but because God gave you *Imago Dei* (His image).

UNDERSTANDING SIN’S IMPACT:

- Sin distorted our ability to reflect the image of God.
- Humans don't reflect God’s image clearly anymore because sin broke us.

UNDERSTANDING “DEFECTIVE” IMAGE BEARING:

ANSWER 1: The Fall Broke EVERYTHING, But Didn't Destroy the Image

ANSWER 2: God Doesn't Make Mistakes, He Makes Image-Bearers

- God can take what the Fall broke and use it for His Glory.

ANSWER 3: Image-Bearing Isn't About Function, It's About Design

So What?

WITHOUT CHRIST: We continue to be *enslaved, fractured* Image-Bearers.

THE SOLUTION: Jesus, the perfect image of God.

IN CHRIST: The Imago Dei is Restored.

The Bottom Line:

When you lose yourself in Christ, you’ll find yourself:
Fully Known. Fully Redeemed. Fully Human.

For Study, Reflection, Discussion During the Week:

Life Group ICEBREAKER: *If you could ask God one "why" question about how He designed humanity, what would it be?*

1. Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? *What* was it and *why* did it resonate with you?

2. READ: Genesis 1:26-27

- What does it mean to be made "in God's image"? Which dimension of image-bearing (rational, relational, creative, moral, ruling, spiritual) resonates most with you?
- How do you see yourself using (or misusing) your image-bearing capacities to either honor God or rebel against Him?

3. READ: Genesis 2:7

- We're both dust (mortal, finite) and divine reflection (bearing God's image). How does this dual nature change how you see yourself?
- How should knowing you're "*dust that reflects the divine*" shape the way you live day-to-day?

4. READ: Colossians 1:15 & Hebrews 1:3

- Jesus is the perfect image of God while we are broken image-bearers. How does Jesus being "fully human" give you hope for your own restoration?
- Where do you see God restoring your ability to reflect Him right now?

5. READ: Mark 8:35

- The world says, "find yourself" - Jesus says, "lose yourself to find yourself." What's the difference?
- What does it mean to "lose your life" for Jesus practically in your daily life?
- Have you experienced being "fully known, fully redeemed, fully human" in Christ? What does that feel like?

Deploy: This week, when you interact with someone, pause and remind yourself:

"They bear God's image. Sacred. Unrepeatable. Eternal."

Treat them accordingly - not based on performance, appearance, or how they treat you, but based on **whose image they bear**.

Let your wrist band be a reminder for you and them ('KNOWN • REDEEMED • SENT').

Don't Forget:

- **Next week. Congregational meeting.** Please plan to stay.
- **Love and Respect Marriage Conference:** Feb 6th and 7th here at ECC. Register on our Website.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for making us in Your image. Our worth isn't based on what we do, but on whose image we bear.

We confess: Sin has cracked us. We've tried to fix ourselves and failed. Thank You for Jesus - the perfect image who came to restore what sin broke.

Help us lose our lives in You so we can find our true selves - fully known, fully redeemed, fully human. We are Yours. And that's enough.

In Jesus' name, Amen.