



MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY

“KINGDOM LIVES MATTER”

Lesson 1 - Imago Dei: In the Image of God

LESSON OBJECTIVE: To understand exactly what it means to be made in the image of God. To understand the term -- “Imago Dei” and gain clarity of what that means for everyday living.

Scripture References: Genesis 1:25-27 & Genesis 5:1

Lesson Goal: To strive and conform to the image of Christ (Romans 8:28)

Why even have this discussion of the Imago Dei?

1. The Death of Black Men in America

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a black American man, was killed in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the age of 46 years old.



2. To Know that Human Beings Have Rights

Human beings deserve rights – Certain rights and norms or principles that govern behaviors.

1. All human beings are free and equal
2. Right to marry
3. Right to own things
4. Right to assemble
5. Right to religion

3. Constitution Affirms Man's Rights

The Declaration of Independence:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

-Preamble to the Declaration of Independence

LESSON FOCUS: Man Is Made In God's Image

Scripture References: Genesis 1:25-27 & Genesis 5:1

Genesis 1:26 informs us that man is made in the image of God. Therefore, people matter because all people are made in the image of God. This is where one bases his or her biblical theological understanding in order to defend the rights of all. For example, the rights of the:

The Poor
The Sick

The Weak
The Elderly

The Disenfranchised
The Mentally Disordered

The Abused
The Oppressed

I. The Designer Model: The Imago Dei

We are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). "God created man in His own image, in the image of God he created him." (NASV). Man was created with a special design in mind. The basis for understanding the image of God is the basis for human dignity and living. A correct understanding of human dignity is the basis for true loving Christian relationships.

- The Hebrew word *tselm* means image, meaning "to carve out or represent God."
- The other word *Demuth* means "to be like."

These two words let us know that man is a representation of God and is like God in some aspects.

- Man is like God because he has dominion.
- Man exists in relationship - male and female, and man is able to make decisions.

The image of God verifies humans as humans. The image bestows on man a special dignity that sets man apart. The image of God is Christ, and Christ is the original or pattern and image of God.

Other Scripture References to the image of God:

1. James 3:9 - The image of God is a reflection of how we treat others.
Similitude (KJV), Likeness (NASV), *homoiosis* (Greek word) – Means "resemblance"
2. Hebrews 1:3 - The image of God is seen in one's character and to be like Christ.
charakter – Greek word, meaning "representation."
3. 2 Cor. 3:18 – The image of God means we are continually restored and the Christian life is an ongoing process.
Eikon – Greek word meaning "likeness"
 - a. When the believer beholds (grasps, understands, studies, lays hold of) the glory of the Lord, the same glory is created in him.
 - b. When the believer beholds the glory of the Lord, the believer progresses and grows from one stage of glory to a higher stage.

II. Who is In the Image of God?

It is important to note that to be in the image of God, is to be made with a given sex. Our sex is a distinction that God has given to us as a part of God's design.

- a. Male
- b. Female

Scripture Reference: Psalm 8:3-6

1. Individual person, the whole person, an entire being
2. Humanity as a whole

QUESTION: When did God become involved in our lives? Psalm 139:131-15

It is important for you to know that God created you. Secondly, God created you wonderfully.

The standard for the image is Christ (Romans 8:29). Christ is the standard and the source of human dignity.

III. Characteristics of God

God's moral characteristics are what the created order should strive towards to maintain dignity.

1. Holiness – God's perfection for our moral character and our drive to practice spiritual behavior – Psalm 99:3
2. Righteousness – God's actions are in accord with His law, which God created. His law is what he expects of others - Jeremiah 9:24
3. Integrity – God's standard for truthfulness
4. Faithfulness – God keeps all promises and is true to His word – Ps. 61:5
5. Love – God is Love – 2 Corinthians 13:11

IV. Work Is A Part of Man's Human Dignity

In Genesis 1:26, man was set apart and given a specific job description to perform. Man was also given a mandate to rule and exercise good stewardship over all of creation. Work also has dignity because it reflects God's image, and man is to care for the world that God created.

Work, based on Genesis 1:28 and Genesis 2:8-9, 15-22, explains man subduing the earth; therefore, man has creativity.

First, man is to increase, multiply, or procreate. Man's role is to build and develop society. Second, man is to be a good steward or trustee over the world that God owns. Man has a clear purpose for the work he is to do which is patterned after God's work.

Second, Work is a service into which God has called man. Work is a vocation or calling where a person works to meet the needs of others and not him or herself. Work is a calling when God gives the assignment to serve others. Thus, Keller's focus of the book.

Third, because of salvation, man should view work as an act of grace. Therefore, we should demonstrate acts of love with joy towards others because believers have been saved by grace. Not only that, believers should view work as a ministry of competency. Because man has been called by God, man should see his job as a calling and know that the work that is performed is done unto God.