

## Imago Dei

### What Does It Mean that God Made Man in His Own Image?

#### **Psalm 8: 5 - 8**

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

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

**7** all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

**8** the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

#### **James 3:8 - 10**

**8** but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

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

**10** From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

### The Four Royal Plural “Let Us” Statements of God

*"The term Majestic plural or pluralis majestatis refers to the use of a plural to refer honorifically to a single person or entity. It is also called the plural of respect, the honorific plural, the plural of excellence, or the plural of intensity."*

- "Pluralis Majestatis: in Biblical Hebrew" - The Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics Brill Academic Pub; First Edition (August 16, 2013)

- All four of these are in the “cohortative mood” in Hebrew, demonstrating Yahweh as the singular speaker, declaring His open intentions as the Sole Sovereign Majesty on High.
  - All four of these “let us” usages are from the throne on high concerning His “royal plural intentions” for His creation below.

**Genesis 3:22** Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—”

**Genesis 11:7** Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.”

**Isaiah 6:8** And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

**Genesis 1:26** 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.”



# Imago Dei

## What Happened to God's Image Bearers?

- Images are created to image. To represent and reflect what they were created after.
  - God created us in His image so that we would display, reflect, and communicate who He is, how great He is, and what He is like.
- Interestingly, in the Old Testament, the same positive Hebrew word from the garden (*selem*) is only used negatively from **Genesis 10** onward.
  - Referring to graven, carved, or vain images (idols) – representatives of falsehoods.

**Exodus 20:4** “You shall not make for yourself a carved image (*selem*), or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

- Remember, you resemble what you worship. You reflect what you revere. (**Psalm 115:8**)
  - The only images that God allows for on earth are humans
  - To resemble and reflect Him, as we worship and revere Him.

## Where is Gospel Redemption Found?

- When Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into this world, he showed what it was to be truly human and entirely bear the image of God.
  - All he does, and all he says perfectly represents God and reflects His glory.

**Colossians 1:15** He (Jesus Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

- In him, we find redemption to be new creations and fulfill the true purpose of our humanity – to praise, honor, and glorify God!

**Romans 8:29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

## Profound Implications for The Value of Human Life

- This Christian ethic, shaped by the doctrine of *Imago Dei* is world-changing
  - And it is a change this fallen world needs to see today
- All human life, of all stations and types, is valuable and not to be demeaned in any way
  - This is why devaluing actions, words, and thoughts are such grievous sins
  - This is why self-sacrificing love is such a heavenly virtue
- It touches on the purpose of you being you
  - And why, a life lived for anything less than that, is below you

**Psalm 139:13 – 14a** For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

