



### The Image of God in Man

The circle shape, representing God, is reflected like a mirror. It is God's image reflected in man.

Paul David Tripp  
*Do You Believe?*

## What We Believe: Solid Doctrine for Everyday Life

### The Doctrine of the Image of God in Man

“After God had made all other creatures, he created people, male and female. He designed them with reasonable and mortal souls, and he endowed them with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after his own image. Adam and Eve had the law of God written in their hearts and were created with the power to fulfill it,

but also with the possibility of transgressing. They had the liberty of their own will, which was subject to change. Besides the law that was written in their hearts, God commanded them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. While they obeyed this commandment, they were happy in their communion with God.”<sup>1 2</sup>

- Images, Idols, and Made in God's Image (Genesis 1:26-27)
- Humans are Embodied: duality or a “psychosomatic unity,” a nexus of soul and body.
- What exactly does it mean to be created “in God's image”?
  - 1) Relational
  - 2) Rational
  - 3) Moral

Augustine writes in his Confessions, “*You stir man to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for [or “toward”] yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.*”

The Biblical basis for Human Rights

Modern challenges to human dignity and worth:

the Taking, Making, and Faking of Human Life (from bioethicist Nigel Cameron).

Jesus is the New Adam, and the perfect Image Bearer (see esp. Romans 5:14 & 19)

### **Discuss and Share:**

- 1) Think about what you know of Jesus' earthly ministry. What are some ways he perfectly embodied being human: in personal relationships, in his reason & wisdom, and in his moral and ethical life?
- 2) If the biblical view of humans is that we are all made in the image of God, what are some ways that our world is *inhuman*, based upon an unbiblical view of humans?
- 3) What are some other specific examples of our culture's Taking, Making, or Faking human life?
- 4) If the Church's calling is to be salt and light in a fallen world, how do you see us modeling what it looks like to be truly human? Where would you like to see us grow?



## Chanting the Psalms

### Psalm 8

O LORD, | our Lord, \*  
how majestic is your name in | all the earth!

You have set your glory a- | -bove 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?

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!

### Recommended Resources

- The artwork comes from, *Do You Believe?: 12 Historic Doctrines to Change Your Everyday Life*, by Paul Tripp (Crossway, 2021), on which this class is loosely based.
- “Man as the Image of God,” online essay by Richard Phillips, [thegospelcoalition.org/essay/man-as-the-image-of-god/](https://thegospelcoalition.org/essay/man-as-the-image-of-god/).

<sup>1</sup> Paul Tripp’s paraphrase of the doctrine of the image of God in man as found in the Westminster Confession of Faith, chap. 4.2.

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7; 3:6; 5:3; 9:6; Eccles. 7:29; Acts 17:26-28; Rom. 2:14-15; 8:29; 1 Cor. 11:7; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:23-24; Col. 3:10; James 3:9.