

The background of the entire image is a reproduction of Michelangelo's famous fresco, "The Creation of Adam," from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. It depicts the reclining position of Adam on the left, with his arm extended towards the right, and the hand of God reaching towards him from the right. The two hands are just inches apart, creating a sense of tension and divine spark.

*In the Image of God:*

*The Doctrine of Man*



The Lakes  
CHURCH

# In the Image of God: The Doctrine of Man

## Genesis 1:26–27

**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.”

**27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

## What does it mean to be “in the image of God?”

### I. Humanity’s \_\_\_\_\_

**Hebrews 4:12**—For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing **to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow**, and discerning the **thoughts and intentions of the heart**.

#### A. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Formed by God to function physically in ways that God functions without necessarily having a body
  - a) Sight
    - (1) **Genesis 16:13**—So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, “You are a God of seeing,” for she said, “Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.”
  - b) Hearing
    - (1) **Psalms 94:9**—He who planted the ear, does he not hear? He who formed the eye, does he not see?
  - c) Smell
    - (1) **Genesis 8:21**—And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.

d) Touch

- (1) **Genesis 32:32**—And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.

e) Speaking

- (1) **2 Peter 1:18**—we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

2. When God reveals Himself in physical form, it is always in human form

- a) **Genesis 18:1-2**—And **the Lord appeared to him** by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, **three men** were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth

b) **Jesus Christ**

- (1) Hebrews 10:5  
(2) Philippians 2:7  
(3) Luke 1:35  
(4) Hebrews 1:3  
(5) Colossians 1:15  
(6) 2 Corinthians 4:4

B. \_\_\_\_\_

1. That which animates

- a) **Genesis 2:7**—then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

(1) A living creature

(a) *Nephesh*

i) “Soul, living being, life”

- (b) **Genesis 1:24**—And God said, “Let the earth bring forth **living creatures** according to their kinds—**livestock** and

**creeping things** and **beasts of the earth** according to their kinds.” And it was so.

**C.** \_\_\_\_\_

1. That which communes with God

- a) To think abstractly
- b) To feel
  - (1) Appreciate beauty
  - (2) Experience emotions and feelings
- c) Worship
  - (1) The Creator

**(2) John 4:24**—“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

**II. Humanity’s** \_\_\_\_\_

**A. God’s** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Genesis 1:26-27**

- a) Make
  - (1) *Asah*
    - (a) “To do, to make”
- b) Create
  - (1) *Bara*
    - (a) “To shape, to create”

**2. Genesis 2:7**—then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

- a) Formed
  - (1) *Yadzâr*
    - (a) “To form”
- b) Breathed
  - (1) *Naphâch*
    - (a) “To blow or breathe”

**3. Genesis 2:22**—And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

a) Made

(1) *bana*

(a) “To build”

## **B. God’s \_\_\_\_\_**

### **1. Given qualities**

a) Sinless

b) Not meant to die

**(1) Genesis 2:17**—but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die.**”

### **2. Given identity**

**a) Genesis 1:27**

(1) Male

(2) Female

**b) Given in marriage**

**(1) Genesis 2:23**—Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

**(2) Genesis 2:24**—Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

### **3. Given work**

**a) Genesis 2:15**—The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

### **4. Given instructions**

**a) Genesis 2:16-17**—And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

## **III. Humanity’s \_\_\_\_\_**

### **A. \_\_\_\_\_**

1. **Genesis 3:1**—Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “**Did God actually say**, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”

B. \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Genesis 3:4-5**—But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. **For God knows** that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil.”

a) Not content with being a human

(1) Pinnacle of God’s creation

b) Wanted to be Creator

(1) God

C. \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Genesis 3:6**—So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also **gave some to her husband who was with her**, and he ate.

a) The woman “saw:”

(1) Good for food

(2) Delight to eyes

(3) Could make her wise

b) The woman gave

(1) To the man

**(a) Who was with her**

(b) Did not correct

(c) Did not refuse

(d) Implication

i) He was in full agreement with woman

D. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Woman

a) **Genesis 3:16**—To the woman he said, “I will surely **multiply your pain in childbearing**; in pain you shall bring forth children. **Your**



**desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."**

2. Man

- a) **Genesis 3:17-19**—And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' **cursed is the ground** because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; **thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;** and you shall eat the plants of the field. **By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground,** for out of it you were taken; **for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**"

E. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Dehumanization

- a) Of people in general

(1) **Cain killing Abel**

(2) Subsequent

- (a) All taking of innocent human life
- (b) All enslavement
- (c) All sin and crime against other humans
  - i) Refusal to acknowledge the fact that the crime is against a human being, who is a bearer of God's image

- b) Of women

(1) **Genesis 4:17-19**—Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. **And Lamech took two wives.** The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.

- c) Of the single human race

(1) Up until **Genesis 11**

- (a) After Babel
- (b) Language confusion
  - i) Reduced common languages to families

ii) Also reduced the gene pool for families

iii) Common physical characteristics

(1) Including skin color

(2) Result

(a) Dehumanizing people based on external appearances

i) Classifying different skin colors as belonging to a different race

ii) Creating external races in process

## 2. \_\_\_\_\_

a) Of the definition of a human

(1) Original Standard

(a) Made in the image of God

i) Spiritual

(1) Bearing the traits and nature of God

(a) Love

(b) Goodness

(c) Selflessness

ii) Sinless

iii) Living forever

(2) New Standard

(a) Flawed

(b) Broken

(c) Sinful

(d) Mortal

(e) "I'm only human"

i) "You don't even know WHO you are!"

## IV. Humanity's \_\_\_\_\_

### A. Jesus Christ

#### 1. All \_\_\_\_\_



- a) Never stopped being God

## 2. All \_\_\_\_\_

- a) Fully Human

- (1) Perfect

- (a) Bore all the traits and nature of God

- i) Love
      - ii) Goodness
      - iii) Selflessness

- (b) Experienced all of life on this broken, fallen earth as a Man

- i) Tempted in all things as everyone else

- (1) But without sin

- (2) Hebrews 4:15**—For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, **but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.**

- ii) Including death

- (1) Philippians 2:8**—And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient **to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

- (c) In the process, He reset the standard of what it means to be human

- i) Made in the image of God

- b) Last remaining issue

- (1) Death

- (a) Final victor over all of humanity

- (b) Death had to be conquered

- i) Not just spiritually
      - ii) But physically

- (2) Jesus' Resurrection a physical resurrection

- (a) Still alive

**(b) Revelation 2:8**—“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, **who died and came to life.**’ ”

## V. Humanity's \_\_\_\_\_

### A. \_\_\_\_\_

1. “To declare righteous”

a) **Romans 5:1**—Therefore, since **we have been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. New Birth

a) **John 3:3**—Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”

b) **Received by faith alone**

(1) **John 3:16**

3. New creations

a) **2 Corinthians 5:17**—Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ, he is a new creation.** The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

b) **In Christ**

### B. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Being set apart

a) By God

b) For God

c) Our daily living

(1) Vertical relationships

(a) Growing in our knowledge of Christ

(b) Being transformed in the process

(2) Horizontal relationships

(a) Being disciplined to learn how to follow Christ

(b) In our relationships with other people

i) How to love

ii) How to serve

d) All in the context

- (1) Of being **In Christ**
  - (a) **Who is All God**
  - (b) **Who is All Man**
  - (c) Who is making us...**human...like Him**

**C. \_\_\_\_\_**

- 1. Resurrected bodies
  - a) United with our spirits and souls
  - b) What will we be?
    - (1) Human
- (2) In Christ**
  - (a) 1 Thessalonians 4:16**—For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. **And the dead in Christ will rise first.**
  - (b) Image of God
- 2. Live forever on new earth
  - a) Revelation 21:1**—Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
  - b) Live forever as...
    - (1) Humans

## **VI. What now?**

- 1. Understanding who Man is will affect how you treat others
  - a) You see them more accurately
    - (1) Originally designed as image bearers of the God of creation
    - (2) Fallen, broken
      - (a) Less than what they were designed to be
    - (3) Yet the same God provided the same remedy for them as He did for you
      - (a) So that they could be brought back to their original design
        - i) Now embodied **in Christ**

- b) Seeing them accurately will result in different treatment
  - (1) As long as you are able to remember
    - (a) Who **they** are
    - (b) Who **you** are

# In Christ

## 31 Passages that describe what is involved with being “in Christ”

### 1. I AM GOD’S CHILD.

**John 1:12**—But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

### 2. I AM A FRIEND OF JESUS CHRIST.

**John 15:15**—No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

### 3. I HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED—I HAVE BEEN DECLARED TO BE RIGHTEOUS.

**Romans 5:1**—Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.,

### 4. I AM UNITED WITH CHRIST, AND I AM ONE SPIRIT WITH HIM.

**1 Corinthians 6:17**—But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

### 5. I HAVE BEEN BOUGHT AT A PRICE. I BELONG TO GOD.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**—Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

### 6. I AM A MEMBER OF CHRIST’S BODY.

**1 Corinthians 12:27**—Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

### 7. I AM A SAINT—A HOLY ONE—ONE SET APART BY CHRIST FOR HIMSELF

**Ephesians 1:1**—Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

### 8. I HAVE BEEN ADOPTED AS GOD’S CHILD.

**Ephesians 1:5**—he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

### 9. I HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO GOD THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

**Ephesians 2:18**—For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

**10. I HAVE BEEN REDEEMED AND FORGIVEN OF ALL MY SINS.**

**Colossians 1:14**—in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**11. I HAVE BEEN FILLED IN CHRIST.**

**Colossians 2:10**—and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

**12. I AM ASSURED THAT GOD IS WORKING ALL THINGS TOGETHER FOR GOOD.**

**Romans 8:28**—And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

**13. I AM FREE FROM ANY CONDEMNING CHARGE AGAINST ME. IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?**

**Romans 8:31**—What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

**14. I CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM THE LOVE OF GOD.**

**Romans 8:35**—Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

**15. I HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED, ANOINTED, AND SEALED BY GOD.**

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22**—And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

**16. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE GOOD WORK GOD HAS BEGUN IN ME WILL BE COMPLETED.**

**Philippians 1:6**—And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**17. I AM A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN.**

**Philippians 3:20**—But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

**18. I AM HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD.**

**Colossians 3:3**—For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

**19. I HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN A SPIRIT OF FEAR, BUT OF POWER, OF LOVE, AND OF SELF CONTROL.**

**2 Timothy 1:7**—for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

**20. I CAN FIND GRACE AND MERCY IN TIME OF NEED.**

**Hebrews 4:16**—Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**21. I AM BORN OF GOD, AND THE WICKED ONE CANNOT TOUCH ME.**

**1 John 5:18**—We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

**22. I AM THE SALT OF THE EARTH. I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.**

**Matthew 5:13-14**—“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

**23. I AM A BRANCH OF THE TRUE VINE, A CHANNEL OF HIS LIFE.**

**John 15:5**—I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

**24. I HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AND APPOINTED TO BEAR FRUIT.**

**John 15:16**—You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

**25. I AM A PERSONAL WITNESS OF CHRIST.**

**Acts 1:8**—“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**26. I AM A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST.**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**—Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

**27. I AM GOD’S CO-WORKER**

**2 Corinthians 6:1**—Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

**28. I AM SEATED WITH CHRIST IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES**

**Ephesians 2:6**—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,



**29. I AM GOD'S WORKMANSHIP—HIS MASTERPIECE**

**Ephesians 2:10**—For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**30. I CAN BE CONTENT IN CHRIST.**

**Philippians 4:11**—Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

**31. I AM GIVEN GOD'S COMFORT—HIS *PARAKLĒSIS*—THAT IS PROPORTIONATE TO ANY SUFFERING I EXPERIENCE.**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-5**—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.