

# We Bear His Image

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**Q.** How did God create man?

**A.** God created man, male and female, in His own image and in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, to rule over the other creatures.

(Westminster Shorter Catechism #10)

*“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*

(Genesis 1:27)

In today’s devotional, we begin by taking a look at the tenth question and answer in the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Our catechism asks, *“How did God create man?”*, and the subsequent answer is that *“God created man, male and female, in His own image...”*. Today we will be focusing on those last four words in Q&A #10, that human beings were created by God *“in His own image”*. If you have read the opening chapters of the book of Genesis, you are aware that over the course of 6 days, God created the heavens (*sky, outer space, planets, suns, moons and stars,*) and the earth (*land, mountains, rivers and oceans*). On days one through three God created various *spaces and substances (light, sky, water, land and vegetation)* and then on days four through six God *filled* those spaces and substances with their corresponding creatures and objects (*sun & stars, birds, fish, animals and human beings*).

Repeatedly in Genesis chapter one we find two different refrains that pop up over and over again in the biblical text. The first refrain is the phrase, *“then God said, let there be...”* (Genesis 1:3,6,9,11,14,20,24), followed by the refrain, *“And God saw that it was good”* (Genesis 1:4,10,21,25). But all of a sudden that repetitious pattern is fundamentally changed in Genesis 1:26 when we read, *“Then God said, let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness”*. Again in Genesis 1:27 we read for a second time, *“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them”*. You see, according to the Bible, there is something fundamentally different about how God created human beings that sets us apart from all other forms of life or animals on this planet. Human beings are distinct from anything else in the created order, in that, it is only human beings which are created in the *“Imago Dei” (image of God)*. While everything else in all of God’s creation was declared by God to *“good”*, only the creation of human beings is described by God as being *“very good”* (Genesis 1:31).

Well what does it mean that you and I as human beings are made in the image of God? Simply put, it means that as human beings, there are certain characteristics or attributes that we have in common with the God who created us. These aren’t physical characteristics, since we have already

learned that God is a spirit, who doesn't have a physical body (John 4:24). But there are certain non-physical attributes that we share in common with God. In theology we make a distinction between two types of God's attributes. First there are those attributes of God that are defined as INCOMMUNICABLE. God's *incommunicable* attributes are those which God does not *communicate* or *share* with us. God's incommunicable attributes only apply to God. For example, three of God's *incommunicable* attributes are that He is infinite, eternal and unchangeable. Obviously, these kinds of attributes only apply to God, and not to human beings. However, there are another group of God's attributes which we define as COMMUNICABLE. God's *communicable* attributes are those which human beings have in common with God. They are attributes that God *shares* or *communicates* to us. They are characteristics or attributes of God that are *reflected* by human beings. For example, whenever we love others or speak the truth we are *reflecting* the God who who IS love and who IS truth. Whenever we work for justice and peace in our world we are *reflecting* the God who IS justice and who IS the Prince of Peace.

Every human being on this planet, regardless as to whether they are Christians or not, bear the image of the *Imago Dei*. Every human being: whether they are red, yellow, black or white are made in the image of God and thus are worthy of being treated with significance, love, dignity and respect since they bear the mark of their Creator and are a reflection of His glory. Today, go out and glorify God by bearing the image of the One who created you!

## Dig Even Deeper into God's Word!

Colossians 3:10

Ephesians 4:24

Genesis 1:28