



Genesis tells us that every single person has been created in the image of God. This is a big deal- this means we were created to reflect God's glory! However, we also know that we all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. How do both of these truths co-exist? Let's take a look at how God restores His image within His people through the sacrifice of His son and the gift of His spirit.

Read: Genesis 1:26-31

In the first chapter of Genesis, we see many attributes of God's character on display throughout the process of creation.

Review Genesis 1 and list the character traits of God that you see.

What specific attributes of God do you see in yourself that come naturally, placed inside of you by your Creator? If you want to go a step further, ask a trusted friend what attributes of God they see in you, then compare what they see in you to what you see in yourself.

Since we know that we are created in God's image, how should that shape the way we see ourselves, our value, and our purpose?

How should this truth shape the way we treat others, who are also created in God's image?

Read: Colossians 1:9-23; Romans 8:28-29; 2 Corinthians 3:18

Read each of these passages and notice the role of each member of the trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in restoring and refining the image of God in us.

What do they do individually and how do they work together?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 in multiple Bible translations (you can use the free YouVersion app if you don't have different translations on hand), and compare the wording.

What does it reveal as the method in which we are transformed more and more into the image of God?

Make it personal:

In what ways is your self-image distorted? How does it conflict with your identity as a person formed by the hand of God into His own image?

Have you tried to use behavior modification and willpower alone to try to mold yourself into the image of what you believe God looks like? How did it go? How long did it last?

What does 2 Corinthians 3:18 tell us about whose work it is to transform us into the image of God?

Does that feel freeing or frustrating? Why?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for creating me in your own image. I ask that you would forgive me for the ways I have sinned and fallen short of your plans for my life and my character. Thank you for loving me so much that you sent Jesus to redeem me and begin the work of restoring and refining your image in me. Draw me into your presence so I can behold your glory, abide in your love, and rest in your grace, while you gently shape my heart to look more like yours. Amen.

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