

May 2009

From the Pastor



### The Image of God

This past week I was asked to speak to the youth group. I met with them a few weeks prior to ask them what they would like me to talk about. One of the main topics that came up was the question, "What does it mean to be created in the image of God?" So I decided to talk with the young people about it. This month I'd like to tell you some of what I told the young people that night. I hope it will encourage you like it encouraged me.

I started with the question, "Why is killing people a bad thing?" Think about it. How would you answer that question? Would you say because the Bible says killing is wrong? But why is it wrong? Why is killing people so wrong while killing an animal for food isn't? Or why is it wrong to hurt people or to treat people differently just because they have a different skin color or because one person has more than another person. Why is it wrong to discriminate?



The Bible records these comments of God's when He made man:

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." **Genesis 1:26 NIV***

The reason murder or discrimination

is wrong is wrapped up in the fact that all people are made in the image of God. Dr. Wayne Grudem defines being made in the image of God this way:

*The fact that man is in the image of God means that man is like God and represents God.[1]*

So every human being is like God. Not only that but since we are like God we represent God. That means that we are very special. And the more we know about God tells us more about what man is like. And the more we know about man tells us more about what God is like.

Imagine what that means for us. We are very special. We are representatives of God. That makes us very special. God made you and I to be like Him. What a privilege.

There are things that are a part of God's character that are not part of ours. God is omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, etc. These attributes are surely not what is meant when we talk about being like God.

There are many ways that we are like God. One way we are like God is that we are spiritual beings. There is a physical side to us, but we are also spiritual and can relate to God on a spiritual basis. And being spiritual also means that we are immortal. Another way that we are like God is in our moral make up. We, like God, have a sense of right and wrong. We are also like God mentally. We are creative. We also can think through situations in ways that animals cannot. We are also like God in that we are in control over creation. God has given us the world to rule over and to care for.

Just think about the fact that we are like God. This makes us more significant than: stars, animals, angels or any other creation of God's.

You are special. The person next to you is special, because we are all created in the image of God.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Art". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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[1] Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine: Essential Teaching of the Christian Faith*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999), 189-193.