

G R O W

Get focused, Read, Observation, Worship

The Image of God – Genesis 1:27

How do you resemble your family? Do you look like your parents? Do you have the same mannerisms? We typically look like our blood relatives and we also act and talk like our immediate family. The Bible teaches that people are made in the Image of God. There is something about being human that makes us like God. There is something that makes us distinct from the rest of creation.

GET FOCUSED

What distracts you from focusing on God and studying the Bible? Take a few moments and silence those distractions and focus your mind. Every time we go to the scriptures, let's expect to hear from God.

READ

If we want to grow our faith, we must read God's Word. The Bible is God's revelation. The Bible reveals who God is and what He wants from us. The more time you spend in God's Word, the more your faith will grow.

OBSERVATION (COMB through the text)

In addition to reading our main passage, read the verses around it to understand the **context**. In Genesis 1, we have the story of creation, how God spoke and created everything. When we get to verse 26, we see that the creation of man was distinct from all other creation. As we continue to read on, we see that Genesis 2 focuses in on man's creation, going into even more detail. There is something special about the creation of people.

Next, we want to **observe** the key words and phrases in verse 27. What stands out to you? Some key words and phrases are: God created man, image of God, male and female.

To help understand the **meaning** of these words and phrases, invest in a good study Bible or utilize online tools like netbible.org. God is identified as Creator of all things in Genesis 1, including people. We are not here by cosmic chance but by God's creation. In this passage, we also see the Trinity. In verse 26, God said, "let us make man in our image, after our likeness." The Bible clearly teaches there is only 1 God (Deut. 4:35, 2 Sam. 7:22, Is. 46:9, 1 Tim. 1:17), so who is the "us?" It's not angels, for

they are created beings as well (Psalm 148:2-5). The “us” is the 3 persons of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19, 2 Cor. 13:14). There are not 3 gods, just 1 God in 3 persons, who are distinct yet connected in 1 person. This one God created all things, and He created man in His image. To be created in His image, means to be in His likeness (v26). Man is the only part of creation that has a soul (Gen 2:7). Because we have a soul, we are more than just physiology, more than just organic matter. We contemplate our existence, we reason, and understand morality. We are not God, who is altogether different from all other beings, but are like Him in some ways. This Image of God gives us great distinction, great value, and great purpose. It’s also important to note that the Bible makes it clear that both male and female are created in the image of God (see also Gen. 5:2). Both are equal in their value and personhood. In Genesis 2, we do see distinction between the sexes and the roles they play, but they are the same in their personhood. Every person is created in the image of God, there is no one that has less value than another. Of course, we also know that every person has sinned and are under the curse of sin (Rom. 3:23, Rom. 5:12), but every person can be saved and reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. And in Jesus, there is no distinction (Gal. 3:28).

So, what’s the **bottom-line**, how would you sum all this up? Every person is a valued creation of God because man is created in God’s image.

WORSHIP

So, how will we live this out, what does it mean for our lives? Worship is so much more than songs; it is honoring God with our lives. We are created by God and for God; created to know Him and to glorify Him (Col. 1:16). Take some time to meditate on this, how can you live for God and honor Him with your life? We are to grow in His likeness (Col 3:10, 1 Cor. 15:48-49). Our character, our desires, and our actions should reflect God’s character and heart. But we still fight the flesh and sin, so we must constantly evaluate our lives and identify the areas that we need to repent and make changes. Is there anything in our lives that are at odds with God’s character and heart? If so, repent and change, so that we can honor Him.