

**Christ, The Story of the World | Made in His image**  
**Redemption Hill Church | Simon Murphy**  
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We've seen that God is happy and good. He created out of no need, as an expression of his happiness and goodness for His glory and our joy. **"Who Am I?" KEANE. Either made with love by God or a random product of evolutionary chance / accident / a glorified ape.** No reason for your existence. You might as well live for yourself. These results in holocausts.

**Genesis 1.26 and 2.7:** God creates and there is this an order to creation, it's not random. We have the field of science because God is a God of order. **It's also not detailed until it gets to man.** At the end of it all, he creates man. We are frankly the crowning glory of all creation.

**There are real distinctions between the rest of creation and us. What are they?**

We are his final creation, and He makes nothing after us (2.1)  
God blesses us (1.28)  
God speaks to us (1.28) This is a capacity to know our Maker  
God instructs us (1.28)  
He makes us out of the dust and then breathes His life into us.  
He gives us dominion over all!  
He says that it is very good (1.31)  
We are made in His image and likeness (1.26)

**The bible even says that we will judge angels! (1 Cor 6).**

This is in contradiction to a random product of evolutionary chance / accident / a glorified ape.

What does the image of God mean? **Firstly, we are like Him, and that we represent Him.** This is **lost partially through the fall** but not entirely, as we see in Gen 9.6 and James 3.6

**His likeness:** In what way are we in His likeness?

**Morally:** God is good. Right and wrong in the universe, a standard: God Himself. We are accountable; we have an inherent sense of right and wrong (our conscience) not culturally programmed. Go to tribes and you see a sense of right and wrong. In every place murder isn't right. It's obvious. Evolution tells us it's survival of fittest but deep down we know that is wrong.

**Physically:** God is spirit, but does sometimes represent himself in a physical sense, and our physical qualities represent his actions. (His arm of salvation, creation is the work of his hands, he speaks, he hears our cries, he strides etc).

**Mentally:** God thinks, expresses, comprehends, etc. We reflect this, We have language, comprehend, awareness of the future, creative abilities, to dream and think.

**Tyra's imagination is a reflection of God's nature.** Animals may be trained to go through a maze, but we there is no such thing as the history of **canine philosophy**. **Beavers** still build the same homes after 1000s of years, Chimps don't stand around debating the pros and cons of Calvinism vs Arminianism. **Tyra 'fetch dad his book off the table please'** – she has a meaning for all of these words which she comprehends and puts together in a way that has meaning. They learn languages, can move countries and learn, write letters, dream.

**Emotionally:** Our deeply complex emotions, all simultaneous! Like yesterday I am tired and feeling weary and discouraged, but I am simultaneously excited for today. I am guilty that I am not with my kids, but delight that I will see them before they go to sleep. Which emotion did I feel? It's highly complex.

**Relationally:** God as Trinity. We have it with God and each other. God is personal.

**Spirituality:** As God is Spirit, so we have spirits. We can relate to God, and are immortal. Our longings can only be fulfilled in Him. Some of you are asking and saying 'how do I find my satisfaction in God?' we need to come to Him, through Jesus. My story of the pleasure of God.

Created in true knowledge of God, in righteousness and likeness (Col 3.10, Eph 4.24, Rom 8.29) That we may delight in Him and share in his glory. We glorify God by delighting in Him and enjoying the life He has given to us (John 10.10) and this only happens through the cross. (Psalm 16.11, Psalm 73.25-26, Ps 84.1-2) Joy comes as we live for God's glory.

Our fallen nature twists our 'likeness' and makes us think we are God! We think that **what we have** and **what we do** gives us value instead of seeing in who's likeness we are! **We worship our abilities** (Morals, Mentally, Spiritually) Burn your business cards, bank statements.

## **His representative**

In the near east images were representatives of a king or of a god. A king might have a statue of himself set up in a temple. Symbolically it meant that he was ever in the presence of the god praying to it. We are God's image here in the world. This is why we are never to make an idol of him (2<sup>nd</sup> command – as we are the image of God).

**You normally respect an image. Like money in Thailand. You die if you dishonor it!**

**Sanctity of life**, how do we view people, women as sex objects, they are devaluing God, slaves, abortion, eugenics, slander. This is why Christians don't believe in abortion, why we introduced hospitals and clinics around the world, medicinal cures before you could become rich on them. **Why Christians take care of the wretched in society because all are made in His image.**

This is why murder is so big, as well as gossip! (James 3.6) **We love people!! We have been fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps 139) in our mothers womb, he know our hairs.**

Secular Humanism says that we are a result of a random evolutionary process. Christian Theism says that we are the crowning glory of a creator God. He knit me together in my mother's womb. Whether you are tall and handsome or short and ugly, whether everything works perfectly or whether you are severely deformed you are made in the image and likeness of Almighty God. If your mother and father looked you in the eye and said that you are a mistake, you are still the crowning glory of the creator God.

You are the crowning glory of all creation, and therefore have dignity, worth and value inherently. By virtue of His creation you have dignity and worth and value because he breathed his life into you.

**Jesus is the true image (we are being restored):** 2 Cor 4.4, Col 1.15, Heb 1.3

It's been reconciled through the cross and restored progressively, so we should expect to be the best in business, creativity, the arts, etc. This restoring begins now (2 Cor 3.18)!