



## FBCD Women's Theology Study

*Do You Believe?* by Paul Tripp - Chapters 13 & 14 (Image of God)

April 14, 2024

### **THE DOCTRINE OF THE IMAGE OF GOD IN MAN**

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. ... So God created man **in his own image**, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:26-27).

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed into the same image** from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

#### **RELATIONSHIP**

"The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me" (John 17:22-23).

"At the heart of living like you really do believe that you were made in the image of God is living a life of **vertical** and **horizontal** love" (233).

#### **MORALITY**

Adam and Eve had perfect righteousness before the Fall. Now that sin resides in us, we are not perfectly righteous, but we still have intrinsic standards of right and wrong.

#### **SPIRITUALITY**

Augustine: "**You have made us for yourself**, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

Blaise Pascal: "There is a **God-shaped vacuum** in the heart of each man, which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

Peter Kreeft: "Trying to fill **the God-sized hole in our hearts** with things other than God is like trying to fill the Grand Canyon with marbles."

## **REPRESENTATION**

Do we “get up every morning and ask [ourselves] how [we] might represent the heart, story, and plan of God in the situations, locations, and relationships that occupy [us] throughout the day” (240)?

“Therefore, we are **ambassadors** for Christ...” (2 Corinthians 5:20a).

**Question:** What attributes of God can we display since we are made in his image?

## **THE IMAGE OF GOD IN MAN IN EVERYDAY LIFE**

“When you look into another person’s face and see the face of God, your behavior toward that person changes” (245).

## **IDENTITY**

Identity = the distinguishing character or personality of an individual

Our foundational identity comes from being made in the image of God.

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).

## **JUSTICE, MERCY, AND FAITHFULNESS**

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have **neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness**. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others” (Matthew 23:23).

Charles Spurgeon: “The church that does not exist to reclaim heathenism, to fight to destroy error, to put down falsehood, a church that does not exist to take the side of the poor, to denounce injustice and to hold up righteousness, is a church that has no right to be. **Not for yourself, O church, do you exist, any more than Christ existed for himself.**”

## **DIGNITY, RESTRAINT, AND RESPECT**

“We are in a cultural moment where **respect has been replaced by outrage**. Little cultural gentleness remains. We react toward those with whom we disagree with the harshest of responses and accusations. ... We seem to have lost our ability to have civil discourse, where ideas are discussed with **dignity, restraint, and**

**respect.** We seem to think it's valid not only to critique people's words, but also to judge their motives. **We are way too quick to speak and too quick to react in anger.** It makes public, private, political, cultural, and church communication very difficult and, in some cases, impossible" (257).

**We are not responsible for another person's response. We are, however, responsible for our own personal holiness.**

"We are never forced to make a choice between theology and love. We are called to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15). Love that has forsaken truth ceases to be love, and truth not spoken in love loses its purity, because it gets bent and twisted by other agendas. **Good theology never produces angry, arrogant, bullying, disrespectful, harm-producing outrage.** Theology that does not produce **gentle, patient, and respectful love** falls short of God's standard for how his truth should be handled and what it should produce" (258).

"Be angry and **do not sin**" (Ephesians 4:26).

"Let **no corrupting talk** come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear" (Ephesians 4:29).

"Let your **reasonableness** be known to everyone. **The Lord is at hand**" (Philippians 4:5).

"Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be **quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger**; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God" (James 1:19-20).

"Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing" (1 Peter 3:9).

## **JESUS**

"[T]he image of God is most powerfully expressed and most fully seen in the Son of God, the Son of Man, Jesus Christ. On earth, in the flesh, Jesus stands before us as **the ultimate image bearer.** In him the image is not dented or damaged in any way. In him we see God's image in perfect expression in **every decision, every word, every thought, every desire, and every aspect of his character,** all spotlessly righteous" (261).

"Excitement should build in us as we read the Gospels and see and hear Jesus, because **in Jesus we see what we, by grace, will someday be**" (261).