



2. While all are the image of God *in their essence* as personal, rational, moral beings, those united to Jesus Christ are being renewed in *the ethical orientation of their identities* as the image of God!

**Eph 4:24** – “But that is not the way you learned Christ!— <sup>21</sup> assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup> to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

**Col 3:9–10** – “Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”

“In connection with the question, whether the image of God belongs to the very essence of man, Reformed theology does not hesitate to say that it constitutes the essence of man. It distinguishes, however, between those elements in the image of God which man cannot lose without ceasing to be man, consisting in the essential qualities and powers of the human soul [rational, moral, willing creature]; and those elements which man can lose and still remain man, namely, the good ethical qualities of the soul and its powers.” (Berkhof, *ST*, 207)

By falling into sin, man lost his ethical glory. The covering of glory was replaced by the nakedness of shame ... Fallen man is a naked image.” – Meredith G. Kline, *Images of the Spirit*, 32

#### IV. Implications for the Christian Life?

- A. Recognize (and work for the recognition of) the sacred dignity and value of every human life.
- B. Recognize (and work for the recognition of) the intrinsic goodness of the human body.

“The body is not a prison, but a marvelous piece of art from the hand of God Almighty, and just as constitutive for the essence of humanity as the soul . . . It is so integrally and essentially a part of our humanity that, though violently torn from the soul by sin, it will be reunited with it in the resurrection of the dead.” – Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 2:559

- C. Rejoice that as the image of God, you were made to know and enjoy God forever!

“As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;  
when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.” (Ps 17:15)