

D2 – The Home: Bearing God's Image in Unity and Love

Introduction

Overview of lesson

Why

Ro 12:2 - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

1. What is the Image of God?

a. Four ways in which God's image is introduced - Genesis 1-2

i. Dominion over the created order , Ge 1:26

ii. Differentiation - both in God and in man

IN GOD - plural pronouns, Ge 1:26

IN MAN - created male and female, Ge 1:27

iii. Unity - both in God and in man

IN GOD - singular pronouns, Ge 1:27

IN MAN - Ge 2:23-24

*"This is now bone of **my** bones, And flesh of **my** flesh; She shall be called Woman, because **she was taken out of Man.**" 24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become **one flesh.**"*

- iv. Displayed in all the earth, Ge 1:28

- b. Two points to summarize what the rest of the Old Testament says about God's image
 - i. God's restriction on image destroyers
 - Gen 3:1-24

 - Gen 4:8-11

 - Gen 6:5-6

 - Gen 9:5-6 (See also James 3:8-10)

 - ii. God's restriction on image makers
 - Ex 20:3-5

- c. New Testament - God fully displays His image in Jesus Christ

Jesus is the image of God!

- *Col 1:15 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*

- *Jn 1:18 - No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.*

- *He 1:3a - He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature. . .*

- *2 Co 4:3-4 - And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

i. Self-giving love

- *Phil 2:6-8 - . . . who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

ii. Unity

- *Jn 10:30 - "I and the Father are one."*

In Jesus, we see that God's image is self-giving, sacrificial, servant-hearted love, completely in unity and oneness with His Father.

To summarize, God's image is seamless unity cemented in self-giving love.

NOTE: Each of the three members of the Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) reveals the image of God to be this image of seamless unity cemented in self-giving love. For example:

- The Father loves the Son (Mk 1:11).
- The Son loves the Father and gives Himself over to the Father's will to redeem His people (Jn 5:19-21; 14:31).
- The Spirit gives of Himself to reveal the Son to His people (Jn 16:13-15).

2. Mankind as God's image bearer

a. Created in the image of God, Ge 1:26-27

- Male and female - neither one has more or less of God's image than the other.

b. God's image in man corrupted, Ge 3

- Male and female equally impacted by sin.
- Man became self-grasping rather than self-giving, obscuring the image of God in mankind.

- c. Restored to bearing God's image in Christ (also see Ep 4:24)
 - God is working all things together for those who love Him to conform us to the image of His Son, Ro 8:28-29.

- Bearing God's image as the body of Christ, Jn 17:20-23; Co 3:14.

Review:

1. Jesus IS the image of God.
2. Man was created in the image of God.
3. Sin corrupted the image of God in us.
4. Believers are restored to bearing God's image through the gospel.
5. We get to bear His image of unity and love in the midst of our diversity as the body of Christ.

3. Bearing God's image as biblical women

- a. Complementarian view of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood
 - i. Spiritual equality before God and each other
 - Men and women created in the image of God.
 - Both equally corrupted by sin.
 - Both can be saved through Jesus' death on the cross.
 - Both are restored to bearing God's image through the gospel.
 - Men and women have spiritual equality before God and each other.
 - ii. Role differentiation in our families and in the church
 - Assigned by God

b. Survey of spiritual equality and role distinction

i. Old Testament

1. Spiritual equality - Ge 1:26-27; 3:16-19, also see earlier notes

2. Role Differentiation

- Adam created first; Eve created to be his helper, Ge 2:18-23.
- God both instructs and confronts the first human pair through the man, Ge 2:15-17; 3:2, 9.
- Paul appeals to God's order in creating first man then woman as explanation for different roles, 1 Ti :212-13; 1 Co 11:8-9.
- Sin distorted their God-given differentiation; sin didn't introduce it, Ge 3.
- Other illustrations of role differentiation from the Old Testament.

ii. Gospels - Jesus' ministry

1. Spiritual equality

- Used illustrations relevant to women, e.g., Mt 13:33; 24:41; Lk 15:8-10.
- Revealed Himself as Messiah to women, e.g., Jn 4:25-26.
- Taught women, e.g. Lk 10:38-42.

- Healed women; touched them and allowed them to touch Him, e.g., Lk 8:43-48; Lk 13:10ff.
- Sent a woman as a witness to His resurrection, Jn 20:1-18.

2. Role differentiation

- Did nothing to exalt women to a place of spiritual leadership over men.
- Affirmed the God-given role differentiation from the Old Testament.

iii. New Testament epistles

1. Spiritual equality:

- Gal 3:28
There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- Ac 18:26 (Priscilla and Aquila)
- Phil 4:2-3 (Euodia and Syntyche)
- 1 Pe 3:7 (wives are fellow heirs of the grace of life)

2. Role distinction:

a. Bearing God's image in the church

- Ac 20:28; 1 Co 11:1-16; 14:34-36; Ep 4:11-13; 1 Th 5:12-13; 1 Ti 2:8-15; 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; Heb 13:7, 17; 1 Pe 5:1-3

b. Bearing God's image in marriage

- Ep 5:22-33

Some closing words of comfort...2 Co 1:3; He 4:14-16; Is 57:15

On your own and in your discussion groups - Bearing God's Image and the Wellspring Disciplines

How does this lesson connect with the Wellspring disciplines?

D1 - We must shepherd our hearts! As we clearly behold our God in His Word and respond with worship, He grants us grace to increasingly display His image of seamless unity and self-giving love.

D2 - As we shepherd our hearts, God grants us grace to display Him image in our homes. We display His image by pursuing unity and pouring ourselves out in self-giving love with the people in our homes and families.

We also display Him image by living in respectful, joyful submission under those in authority over us in our home (our parents or husband). It is a privilege to display the love of the church for her Lord Jesus!

D3 - His image must also be put on display in our church - in our unity, our love, and our appreciation for all the different members God has assembled together. We display His image by embracing the role He has given us as women as we submissively obey, serve, encourage, and employ all of our gifts for the building up of the body under the servant leadership of our shepherds. And by God's grace the church will be strengthened and the gospel mission will advance to the ends of the earth, putting God's image on display everywhere...all for the glory of our great God!