

Theme: Christ is the fulfillment of humanity's call to bear the image of God, and He is forming that image in His people.

## **I. Intro – Christ the Fulfillment of Humanity**

- A. Finished looking at Israel & OT covenant
- B. What about humanity in general?
- C. Christ is the focus here as well
- D. Son of Man sayings
  - 1. Jesus used this title 82 times
  - 2. His favorite self-designation
  - 3. Many meanings – one is “human”

## **II. Man: Created in God's Image**

- A. Man alone is created in image of Trinity (1:26-27)
- B. Image of God in man – like (not identical) & represent
  - 1. Spiritual likeness (spiritual life) – Gen 2:7; relate to God
  - 2. Moral likeness (righteousness) – Col 3:8-10
  - 3. Social likeness (relationships) – Gen 1:26-27; 2:18
  - 4. Functional likeness (dominion) – 1:26; next week
- C. Man is to display what God is like to creation

## **III. Fall: The Image is Distorted**

- A. The image is not lost, but it is distorted
- B. In the Fall, every area was affected
  - 1. Spiritual – dead to God
  - 2. Moral – now bent to sin, unrighteousness
  - 3. Social – problems with other humans

## **IV. Christ: The True Image of God**

- A. Christ is the express image of God
  - 1. Col 1:15; Heb 1:3; 2 Cor 4:4
  - 2. Christ is the full image of God
  - 3. True of Deity and humanity of Christ
- B. Christ fulfills every aspect of image in man
  - 1. Spiritual – John 5:19; 14:10 - alive to God!
  - 2. Moral – Heb 4:15; John 8:46 – dead to sin!
  - 3. Social – teachers of law at 12; sinners; - relationships!
- C. Christ restores the image in His people now
  - 1. Spiritual – John 5:24; Gal 4:6
  - 2. Moral – 1 Pet 2:24; Eph 4:20-24
  - 3. Social – Colossians 3:8-11 (11)

D. Christ will completely restore image at His return (1 Jn 3:2)

## V. Conclusion & Summary

A. Christ is fulfillment of humanity as image of God

1. Fulfillment not only of Israel – but mankind
2. He is what we were created to be
3. He is remaking this image in us

B. Christ is the Authentic Man – don't change Him

1. Don't follow 'Hollywood Jesus' - caricature
2. He defines and displays true humanity

C. This gives confidence in evangelism

1. He is what your friends long for
2. They will never find authentic life apart from Him
3. He is compelling – tell His story!

Christ: The Image of God

Genesis 1:26-28

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1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. Gen 2:7

<sup>8</sup> But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Colossians 3:8-10

<sup>18</sup> The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Genesis 2:18

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, Colossians 1:15

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being... Hebrews 1:3

<sup>4</sup> The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4

Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does." John 5:19

Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. John 14:10

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin. Hebrews 4:15

Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? John 8:46

I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. John 5:24

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." Galatians 4:6

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Pet 2:24

You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. <sup>21</sup> Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:20-24

<sup>8</sup> But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Col 3:8-11

<sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2