

# Made in the Image of God

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What does the Bible mean when God reveals that man is made in His Image?

Well, I hope you already know the answer to this question, but just in case you haven't studied this particular subject, or you rely upon the correct or incorrect knowledge of another person, let me share with you what I believe to be true concerning this matter.

The Bible says in Genesis 1:27 (NKJV) So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

First, let me establish the groundwork for the discussion of the question within this article. This article is not to be an exhaustive study concerning the "Imago Dei," but to bring it's meaning to light in a relevant way for the times in which we currently live.

Furthermore, with that being said, I personally don't recognize myself as an Old Testament scholar and if you are interested in learning more concerning this subject, then I would refer you to my older brother who can assist you in coming to a deeper understanding of "Imago Dei" or "Image of God."

Now to the heart of the matter, "in His own image."

Again without great detail, I believe the Hebrew grammar favors the translation "God created man as His image" over "God created man in His image." So what is the difference? When we consider "God created man as His image" then God created man to be a copy of Him. This meaning is fuller and richer because as man we are to be a formal, visible, and understandable representation of what God is and what God is really like.

Being a "copy of God" allows me to be a formal, visible, and understandable representation of His character e.g., love and compassion. To be anything other isn't being Godly.

Furthermore studying the "Character of God" allows me to know that as His "copy" I should be rational, logical, and orderly in my representation of His character, i.e., when loving I should be rational, logical, and orderly.

For example: when loving as a copy of God, I should be loving in a rational, logical, and orderly way and if I'm loving in any other way, then I'm not being Godly in my essence/existence.

Thus, to be loving with pure emotion by throwing caution to the wind, or being compassionate via emotions without any rational, logic, and or order isn't being a copy of God; it isn't being a formal, visible, and understandable representation of what God is and what God is really like.

So, now I come to the heart of the matter as to why I've written this article and in doing so I'll look back to Genesis, specially concerning man's disobedience to God.

In being disobedient to God, man became a "disobedient copy of God," now acting not as a formal, visible, and understandable representation of what God is and what God is really like.

In disobedience, man's love is not a copy of God's love; man's compassion is not a copy of God's compassion. In disobedience, man acts in pure emotion without rational, logic, and order. Without God, man is a mess and what he does creates a bigger mess.

And this is what we see in today's society; man without God acting irrational, illogical, and without order, i.e., in pure emotion throwing caution to the wind.

### **Welcome to America!**

Can it be different? Yes, but God must be included for that to happen.

Now I'm going to speak to the Christian; persons who have a right relationship with God through His son Jesus Christ and are allowing God's spirit to lead them in life.

As Christians we are to be as Adam and Eve were before their disobedience; we are to be "copies of God." We are to be Godly in our essence / existence.

Concerning the affairs of this world, we should be loving and compassionate in a Godly way not in pure emotion throwing caution to the wind, but in a rational, logical, and orderly way. We may be in this world but we are not to be of this world.

Satan is the authority of pure emotion acted out in an irrational, illogical, and disorderly way. He is the authority of confusion!

So, as Christians don't get confused! **Act as God acts.**

The Apostle Paul reminds the Ephesian Christians about how they used to act in Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV) 1 "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others."

The words, "lust and desire" speaks to irrational, illogical, and out of control emotions.

But he doesn't stop there! He goes on to say in Ephesians 2:4-10 (NKJV) 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

The word, "prepared" speaks to rational, logical, and orderly character.

So I encourage Christians to be "copies of God" in your thoughts, actions, and behavior, "14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, (Ephesians 4:14).

Remember, God's character goes together with rational, logic, and order just as a "horse and a carriage" go together. Anything else is "not of God" but of Satan who loves for man to be emotionally irrational, illogical, in a state of chaos.