

Created in the Image of God to become Sons of God

Introduction:

1. We Have Studied almost 20 divine attributes of God... [LIST]
2. And God's Divine Attributes have a personal application to you and I!

I. CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

A. HUMAN BEINGS ARE UNIQUE IN GOD'S CREATION

1. **The Creation of the Cosmos is Amazing... (Genesis 1:1)**
 - a) God created Time, Energy, Space, Matter...
 - b) God Created Light, and Life,
 - c) and a Bio-sphere to support the most amazing forms of life.
2. **But Nothing in the Physical Cosmos is made in the image of God except us**

Notice the text: (Genesis 1:26-27)

 - a) *"Let Us make man in our image..."* This is Hebrew Plural name for God (Elohim)
 - b) The Plural name for God Includes the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - c) God Created you with a Mind, Body and Spirit
3. **GOD IS SPIRIT—And He Created You With a Spirit...**

And For This Reason—We Are Unique in God's Creation (Gen 5:1-3)

B. YOU ARE NOT AN ACCIDENT

1. **There are many popular lies people believe—and one of the most popular lies today is that you are an accident...**
 - a) There Are Some Who Don't Want You to Know You're Unique Intrinsic Value
They Don't Want You To Know Your Created by God in the Image of God
 - b) There's always a motive to believing a lie—But a Tree is Known By it's Fruit...
Adolf Hitler: "I do not see why man should not be just as cruel as nature."
Do you realize how many people died because of the words of this man?
2. **You Are Created by God in the Image of God w/ a Spirit that Lasts Forever.**

Do You Want the Truth?

C. YOUR SOUL IS WORTH MORE THAN THE WHOLE WORLD

1. **It Almost Sounds to Incredible to be Truth—But it's Not Me Saying It!**

Jesus said, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mark 8:36-37)
2. **The Eternal Worth of Your Soul is More Than You Can Imagine...**
 - a) Some People Sell Their God-Given Soul For a Bowl of Porridge...
They Don't Realize the Eternal Worth of the Soul!
 - b) The Incredible Price Jesus Paid to Purchase Us Back Shows the Worth of our soul!

II. FALLEN FROM THE IMAGE OF GOD

A. WE HAVE ALL SINNED AND FALLEN SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD

1. Although We Were Created By God, We Fell Short (**Romans 3:23**)
2. GOD IS LOVE—And He Created Us with Free-Will Because without Free-Will Choice There is No Love...
3. But Free-Will Choice Also Allows People the Choice NOT to Love
 - a) Not to Love God — and Not to Love Fellow Man...
 - b) or Even Their Own Husband or Wife or Children or Mother or Father

B. SIN HAS CAUSED OUR IMAGE OF GOD TO BE TARNISHED & STAINED

1. From the 1st murder, from the 1st offspring, of the 1st parents: Adam & Eve when Cain killed his brother...
 - a) God told Cain *“The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground.”*
2. The Intrinsic Value of Human Life is Not a Social Construct...

—Society Actually Attempts to Diminish the Value of Human Life!

 - a) In S.F. More People Die from Opiate and Fentanyl Overdoses than from COVID
 - b) —> 55 people shot and 11 killed in Chicago just two weekends ago (May 24, 2021)
 - c) This Weekend 100 people will be shot in cities from Chicago, to Baltimore, LA and Detroit, Seattle, Portland, and S.F.
 - d) Next Weekend will be the same, and the weekend after that, and over and over
 - e) There is now a 97% increase in homicides in LA County just over the last 12 months
 - f) Every Day in America—100 People are shot and killed—EVERY Day

It’s been said: “One Death is a Tragedy, but a million deaths is a statistic.”

3. The Value of Human Life is Not a Social Construct—

—It is an Intrinsic Value Created By God (**Genesis 9:5–6**)

C. HUMANITY HAS FALLEN SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD

1. The 20th Century was the Most Enlightened Century and the Bloodiest...
 - a) The Emergence of Mechanized Warfare...
 - b) The Invention of Biological Warfare, Trench Warfare
 - c) The Invention of The Concentration Camps, The Gulags, The Killing Fields
 - d) The Invention of Atomic Warfare, and now with enough nuclear weapons,
—mankind has the ability to destroy the Surface of the Planet 10x over.

“The 20th century gave rise to one of the greatest and most distressing paradoxes of human history: that the greatest intolerance and violence of that century were practiced by those who believed that religion caused intolerance and violence.”

- Alister McGrath, *“The Twilight of Atheism: The Rise and Fall of Disbelief in the Modern World”*

2. (**Ecclesiastes 7:29 ESV**) God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.

III. THE VISIBLE IMAGE OF GOD

We were created in the image of God—but have fallen from the image of God...

A. BUT WHEN WE LOOK TO JESUS—WE SEE THE TRUE IMAGE OF GOD

1. (Colossians 1:15) In All of Jesus' interactions—

we see the Character and Image of God

- a) In Jesus Compassion for the sick and weak...
- b) In Jesus Power Over Nature, Power over Demons, Power over Death
- c) In how Jesus Spoke With Authority... not like the Scribes and Lawyers of the Law
- d) "You have heard it was said..." — "BUT I SAY UNTO YOU..." (Matthew 5:43–48)

2. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away."

"His words have passed into law, they have passed into doctrines, they have passed into proverbs, they have passed into consolations, but they have never 'passed away.' What human teacher ever dared to claim an eternity for his words?" (Maclean)

3. When You Read Plato, Socrates or Aristotle—You Find Inquiry...

When You Read the Words of Christ—You Find Revelation!

B. JESUS IS THE RADIANCE OF GOD'S GLORY (Hebrews 1:1–3)

1. *NKJ: who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person*
2. *ESV: He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*

C. IN JESUS WE SEE THE PERFECT IMAGE OF GOD DISPLAYED

1. Not Physically but Spiritually... (John 1:18)

- a) Jesus came to earth fully God the Son and Fully Human
- b) And We See the Divine Nature of God in the Life of Jesus...
God's Love, Compassion, Holiness, Grace...

2. And When Phillip asked to see the Father—What Jesus says is Shocking!

(John 14:8–9) 'He who has seen Me has seen the Father...'

IV. BORN AGAIN IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

A. WE WERE CREATED BY GOD, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD...

TO BE BORN AGAIN IN THE IMAGE OF GOD—AS SONS OF GOD...

1. This is not a universal status everyone enters by natural birth...
2. We Become Sons of God By Faith When We Are Born Again (Gal. 3:26–27)
3. We Are Clothed with Christ and Given the Gift of the Holy Spirit!

B. SPIRITUALLY REMADE AS A NEW CREATION IN GOD'S IMAGE!

1. Not Only Is it God's Will that We Be Saved—But we are reborn!
2. We Become a New Creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17, 21)
3. Renewed in the Image of Him Who Made Us! (Colossians 3:10)

C. TO BECOME SONS OF GOD (Romans 8:13–14)

1. To be a child of God we must be led by the Spirit of God!
 2. Not the Spirit of the Age!
 3. The Spirit of the Age is SELF! Following the Flesh instead of the Spirit!
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V. TRANSFORMED BY THE IMAGE OF GOD

A. TRANSFORMED TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF GOD

1. **(Romans 8:28)** God works all things for the good of those those who love Him and are called according to His purpose...
2. But What is His purpose? **(8:29)** To be conformed to the image of His Son!
3. To Become Like Christ!

B. IT IS GOD’S PURPOSE TO TRANSFORM US TO BE LIKE CHRIST

1. **(2 Corinthians 3:18)** We Are Called To Take On His Divine Attributes...
 - a) God is Love—we are to love one another and even our enemies
 - b) God is Merciful—we are to have mercy
 - c) God is Light—we are to be children of light, not walking in darkness
 - d) God is Holy—Without Holiness No One Will See the Lord!
We are to be a Holy People “Be ye holy for I Am Holy”
 - e) God is Righteous—we are clothed in His righteousness by His Blood!

C. TRANSFORMATION IS GREEK WORD IN NT: Metamorphose (Rom 12:2)

1. It is where we get the English Word: Metamorphosis
 - a) The Transformation that Defies Evolution!
 - b) From Caterpillar, > to Chrysalis, > to Butterfly!
 - c) And then the Butterfly embarks on a 4,000 mile migration to S. America!
2. Metamorphosis takes on three main stages...
 - a) Caterpillar Stage— a Caterpillar Cannot Fly! [When we’re lost—we cannot fly]
 - b) The Chrysalis Stage — A Cocoon envelopes the work of Transformation
[When we are Baptized—we are Clothed w/ Christ—Robe of Righteousness envelops us during this stage of Transformation]
 - c) The Butterfly Stage—The Final Transformation is Finished by Christ
When this Body is Discarded and We Fly Away

Ecc 12:7 Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.

3. Transformation Doesn’t Happen Overnight...

- a) But it Has to Begin with Faith—God wants us to Believe and Obey the Truth rather than the Lies of the Enemy!
- b) This is the Amazing Work of the Gospel! **(2 Corinthians 4:3–4, 6)**

CONCLUSION:

1. You Are NOT an Accident!
2. You are created in the Image of God to become sons of God **(1 John 3:2)**