

What Is Man that Thou Art Mindful of Him?

For the past several months, we have been laying the foundation for understanding God's relationship with man. We have looked at the Bible and how God has miraculously structured it to reveal Himself to us. We have considered the character and work of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Now we turn to the other side of that relationship. We begin to look at man: who he is and why he matters.

A great question to start with is the same one David asked, standing in awe of creation and God's care:

Psa 8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

How amazing that the God who fills the heavens is mindful of us! When David wrote these words under a night sky, he was overwhelmed by the majesty of the heavens. Today, we can see even more deeply than David could have imagined. We can look out at the breadth of the heavens, but we can also zoom in to the smallest parts of ourselves. From the vast galaxies to the tiny strings of our DNA, the wonder of creation declares the glory of God.

Think about this: At the moment of our conception, billions of microscopic instructions were already in place. And from that single cell, we developed with astounding precision. That code told some cells to differentiate and become eyes, others to become a heart, and still others to form a brain capable of pondering eternity and worshiping its Maker. It feels like a grand understatement when David also wrote:

Psa 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well.

Our existence is not an accident. It is

not a mistake. We were crafted intentionally, intricately, and lovingly. And why? Because we are made in the image of God. You are not a cosmic fluke or a random accident of nature. You are a divine masterpiece.

When David asked, "What is man?" that question speaks to our identity, our value, and our purpose. When we begin to understand the image of God in us, that is when we can begin to understand the dignity of life, the tragedy of sin, and the beauty of redemption.

1. The Image of God in Us -

We often think of how we experience the world through five senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. But imagine if we had more—if we had antennas that could pick up electromagnetic waves or feel the pull of magnetic north. Imagine navigating not just by sight but by unseen forces. Interestingly, some animals do. Birds migrate using Earth's magnetic fields. Insects see ultraviolet light. Yet in all their sensory brilliance, not one of them can perceive what we can perceive. This is because God gave humanity something more.

He gave us conscience, a God sense. Romans 2:15 says that God wrote His law on our hearts, and our conscience bears witness.

Rom 2:15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

This is not a product of the flesh. It's the whisper of the spirit. It's what allows us to not merely survive, but to worship. Not merely to navigate the earth, but to seek the face of our Creator. This is what separates us from the animals.

1Cor 2:10,11 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of

God.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

The Bible tells us in Psalm 42 that deep calls unto deep. The spirit of man, uniquely endowed by God, can perceive the eternal, hear the call of heaven, and respond to the truth. That is the image of God in us. It is not just rationality or creativity. It is spiritual capacity.

When I think back to when my children were growing up, I remember marveling at how much was already woven into them. Their mother's music was in them—you could hear it when they sang, when they listened, when melody seemed to flow out of them. As they grew into adulthood, we saw in them our love of study and the hunger to understand and to think deeply. Even while they were still so small, we saw that character shaping their thoughts and the insights that would rise up in them.

They still had the innocence of inexperience, but it was clear they carried something rich and deep within them. It often left us in awe. It was because they were made in the image of God.

We couldn't imagine exactly what they would become, but we held high hopes, not for worldly success, but that the character of God would take root and grow strong as they became adults. We saw how, one day, their choices would reflect the values we tried so hard to plant in their hearts, and how their lives might one day speak not just of the home they came from, but of the God who formed them.

When someone harms our children, it's an injury to our hearts because they are part of us. And if our hearts grieve when someone mistreats our children, imagine how God must feel when those made in His image are defiled by hatred, abuse, or corruption.

2Thess 1:6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them

that trouble you;

Gen 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

The image of God is not a theological abstraction. It is the signature of the Creator on every life. To abuse, demean, or destroy a human being is to vandalize God's masterpiece. When evil prevails in the world, when men, women, and children are exploited, when violence is celebrated, when life is cheapened, it grieves the heart of God. It is not just a violation of a person, it is a defilement of His image, and therefore, a defilement of Him.

2. Satan's War Against the Image of God -

If we are made in the image of God, it should not surprise us that Satan has always targeted that image for destruction. From the very beginning, the devil has not merely tempted us to disobey, he has sought to defile the likeness of God in man.

When we look at Scripture, we find that demonic activity is often marked by violence, distortion, and dehumanization. In Mark 5, we see how this affected the man possessed by a legion of demons.

Mark 5:2-5 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

3 Who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

4 Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any *man* tame him.

5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

In Matthew 17, a demon throws a boy into fire and water to destroy him.

Matt 17:15-18 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.

16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.

17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.

18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

The Bible says Satan is like a roaring lion.

1Pet 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

In the wild, lions don't roar when they're stalking prey, they stay silent. They roar to intimidate, to dominate, to claim territory. Satan doesn't roar because he's won. He roars to make us *think* we're already defeated. He roars to terrify, to paralyze, to scatter. His roar is loud, but it's not victory. It's a bluff, a lie, and a threat. The victory is ours and it is in Christ.

And here's the striking thing: Satan rarely works to get us to worship him. He gets us to worship ourselves. He gets us to glorify our desires, to exalt our bodies, to embrace perversity as identity.

At the very beginning, when Adam and Eve fell into sin, the first thing they did was cover themselves. Their nakedness, once pure, now brought shame.

Gen 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and

made themselves aprons.

There are numerous references to this tactic in the Scriptures. At first Balaam seemed like a good prophet when he was instructed by God to bless Israel when king Balak hired him to curse them. Later, he showed his evil side when he went to the devil's playbook for a well used tactic. He lured Israel into judgment not with warfare, but with sexual immorality (Numbers 25). Also, pagan worship became synonymous with perverse fertility rites and temple prostitution.

And today? The serpent still whispers. Pornography saturates our culture. Clothing is increasingly designed not to cover, but to seduce. And what began with a call for tolerance has escalated into a full-scale assault on the very structure of God's design.

First came the push to accept homosexuality. Then came the demand to redefine marriage. Then came the insistence that not only must it be accepted, it must be endorsed and celebrated. Now we see the rise of transgender ideology, where children are taught to mutilate what God created, and where confusion is hailed as authenticity.

Let's be clear: this is not political. This is spiritual warfare. This is Satan's ancient lie dressed in modern language. And the target is the image of God.

God did not make us in His image in some vague or generic sense. He made us male and female.

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

This is not an opinion. It is not culture. It is *God's* creation. To *redefine* it is not to enlighten. It is to rebel against God.

And now, the very word "dignity" has been hijacked. Ungodly political forces have blasphemously called their defilement "the image of God." The response came back, "Yes, the children bear the image of God and God defines

that image in man as male or female." The culture says that to affirm sin is to honor the person. But the truth is the opposite: to affirm sin is to degrade the image of God in someone. Our dignity does not come from our sin. It does not come from our feelings or preferences. It comes from our design and from our calling to reflect God's glory.

Yes, every person still bears God's image. And yes, every sinner is someone Christ died to redeem. But our dignity is not found in the corruption of that image. It is found in the restoration of that image through Jesus Christ.

This is why the people of God must not remain silent. To affirm what God calls sin is not love. It is complicity in Satan's rebellion. But to lovingly call people to the truth is to participate in God's redemptive work of restoring His image in fallen man.

3. The Image of God: Marred, But Redeemable -

We've seen that being made in the image of God gives every person inherent worth and spiritual capacity. But something has gone wrong. Sin has entered the world and with it, distortion, rebellion, and brokenness. Though the image remains, it has been marred.

This is where many go astray. Some want to pretend that all people are perfectly fine just as they are, that because we are made in God's image, there is no need to change. But Scripture does not support that kind of thinking. Yes, we are made in His image, but we are also fallen.

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned,
and come short of the glory of
God;

The image of God has been defaced: by lust, by pride, by greed, by rebellion. What was designed to reflect heaven has been smeared with the dirt of earth. However, we *still* bear that image.

The thief on the cross bore that image, even as he hung beside Jesus under judgment.

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

The woman caught in adultery bore that image as she was dragged before the Lord. And Jesus did not celebrate their sin. He did not affirm their brokenness. He called them to repentance.

John 8:11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

Why did He do this? Because their worth did not come from the rebellion they were caught in. It came from the God who made them and the cost of His Son to redeem them.

Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Christ came to restore what was broken, to cleanse what was stained, to redeem what was lost.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

So let us be clear: the dignity of man is real, but it is not an excuse to remain in sin. It is the reason Christ came: to redeem that marred image in us and remake it into something glorious.

And if that's what Christ came to do, how serious is it when we celebrate the very sins He died to free us from? How serious is it when the world asks us to affirm the chains rather than the freedom? The cross is not a license to stay in our sin. It is the gateway to transformation.

4. We look to the new image in Christ -

We have talked about how we must raise our children not merely to consume but to reflect the image of God. But it does not stop with our homes. We are called to reflect God's image for everyone around us—because every person, whether they acknowledge it or not, bears the dignity of being made in God's image.

- The plumber fixing your sink bears the image of God.
- The doctor diagnosing your illness bears the image of God.
- The barber cutting your hair bears the image of God.
- The man collecting your garbage bears the image of God.

Every person we encounter, whether on the street, at work, or in the store carries that sacred imprint.

Here's the challenge: When they make a mistake, when they frustrate us, when they inconvenience us, are we quick to assume the worst? Do we jump to the conclusion that they are trying to cheat us or get away with something? Are we willing to be outwardly polite but inwardly complaining, treating them as an obstacle to overpower rather than a soul to honor?

It's one thing to act nobly toward people when they "deserve" it. It's another thing altogether to recognize the inherent dignity of those who may not deserve it in that moment and to treat them as made in the image of God.

Matt 5:44-47 But I say unto you,
Love your enemies, bless them
that curse you, do good to them
that hate you, and pray for them
which despitefully use you, and
persecute you;

45 That ye may be the children of
your Father which is in heaven:
for he maketh his sun to rise on
the evil and on the good, and
sendeth rain on the just and on
the unjust.

46 For if ye love them which love
you, what reward have ye? do not
even the publicans the same?

47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so?

Even when someone manifests their sin, even when their brokenness is on full display, do we see the possibility that God might still be calling them? Do we see that the same grace that reached us can reach them?

Remember Saul of Tarsus? When he first encountered the early Christians, he was a terror to the church.

Acts 8:3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed *them* to prison.

Later, when he was converted and tried to join the disciples.

Acts 9:26 And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.

They couldn't imagine it. Saul? A follower of Christ? It seemed impossible. He was arrogant. He was consumed with pride. He was violent and famous for killing Christians.

But God saw more. God saw how He could make him an apostle where others saw an enemy. God was about to make a missionary where others saw a murderer. The image of God in Saul was marred, but he became the apostle Paul when he was redeemed.

1Tim 1:12-13 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.

And the same is true for the people around us. We are called not just to tolerate them, not just to endure them. We are called to see them with God's eyes, to recognize the dignity of the image they still bear under the dirt of sin and the potential for redemption that Christ offers to all.

Who knows? The person you are tempted to give up on today could be the next Paul tomorrow.

Ultimately, the redeemed will be completely transformed into the glorious image of Christ at the Rapture.

1Cor 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

We should really rejoice when we sing *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* at Christmas. The last verse says, "Come, desire of nations, come, Fix in us Thy humble home; Rise, the woman's conquering Seed, Bruise in us the serpent's head [Gen 3:15, the first mention of the Gospel in the Bible]. **Adam's likeness, Lord, efface, Stamp Thine image in its place:** Second Adam from above, **Reinstate** us in Thy love."

We have seen that every person bears the image of God. But let us be very careful: Having the image of God does not mean we are clean. It does not mean we are whole. The image has been corrupted by sin. And unless it is redeemed by Christ, that image will never be restored. If you are here today and you do not know Christ, don't believe the lie that being made in God's image means you are fine the way you are. You need a Redeemer. You need forgiveness. You need a new heart. You need Christ to wash you, to reclaim His image in you, and to breathe eternal life into your soul. The same God who

created man stands ready to remake you. The cross was not built for perfect people. It was built for broken image-bearers like you and me. Today can be the day that you stop carrying the guilt of a defiled image, and start reflecting the glory of a restored life in Jesus Christ.

But maybe you are here today as a believer. You are one who has trusted Christ, yet you look at yourself and you are discouraged. You see your failures. You see the times you have given into temptation. You see the times you have not reflected Christ as you should. You have harbored unforgiveness.

Col 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*.

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

You wonder if you are still useful. Hear me carefully. If you have been born again then You still bear His image. You are still His child. The very fact that you are convicted and grieved over your sin is proof that His Spirit is still working in you. Don't quit. Don't despair. Confess your sin and rise up by His grace and commit yourself to again reflect His love in your home, His holiness in your decisions and His truth to a world drowning in lies. The world desperately needs to see the image of God through redeemed people. They need to see it in us.

Whether you need redemption or renewal the invitation is open. Come to Christ. Let Him restore what sin has broken. Let Him make you whole.

Psa 8:4, Psa 139:14

1. The Image of God in Us - Rom 2:15, 1Cor 2:10,11, 2Thess 1:6, Gen 9:6
2. Satan's War Against the Image of God - Mark 5:2-5, Matt 17:15-18,

1Pet 5:8, Gen 3:7, 1:27

3. The Image of God:
Marred, But Redeemable
- Rom 3:23, Luke 23:43,
John 8:11, Rom 3:24,
John 10:10
4. We look to the new
image in Christ - Matt
5:44-47, Acts 8:3, 9:26,
1Tim 1:12-13, 1Cor
15:49, Rom 8:29, Col
3:13, Eph 4:32