

## 5-Day Devotional: “**IMAGO DEI: CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE**” - **Genesis 1:26-27**

### Day 1: **UNIQUELY CREATED**

#### **Scripture Reading:**

- o Genesis 1:26-27
- o Psalm 8:3-8

#### **Devotional:**

Have you ever stopped to consider what it means to be made in God’s image? Genesis 1:26-27 reveals that **humanity is unique** in all creation. While God spoke everything else into existence when it came to mankind, He was intentional—He made us **in His image and likeness**.

This means we are not random accidents or the result of meaningless chance. Every human being, from the unborn child to the elderly, carries divine worth. Your identity is not defined by your job, accomplishments, or what others think of you—it is rooted in the reality that you reflect God. That’s why the world’s attempts to define human worth by wealth, beauty, or ability always fall short.

Think about the implications. If you are made in God's image, then your life has intrinsic value, worth, and dignity. You are not a cosmic mistake; you are a reflection of the divine. Understanding this truth can revolutionize how you see yourself and others.

#### **Reflection Questions:**

- How does knowing you are made in God’s image change the way you see yourself?
- Do you sometimes allow culture to define your worth instead of God?
- How does this truth impact the way you treat others?

#### **Practical Application:**

- Spend time in prayer today, thanking God for creating you with purpose and dignity.
- Look for ways to affirm the worth of others—speak words of encouragement, show kindness, and treat people with respect.
- If there are areas where you struggle with self-worth, meditate on Genesis 1:26-27 and ask God to reshape your thinking.

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, I am humbled and amazed that You created me in Your image. Thank You for the dignity and purpose You've given me. Help me to see myself as Your image-bearer today, not defining my worth by what I accomplish or how others value me, but by the truth that I reflect something of Your character. Open my eyes to recognize Your image in others, even those I find difficult to love. May I treat each person I encounter with the respect and dignity they deserve as Your image-bearers. In Jesus' name, Amen!

## Day 2: MALE AND FEMALE

### Scripture Reading:

- o Genesis 1:27
- o Ephesians 5:31-33
- o Genesis 2:18-25

### Devotional:

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." Notice the beautiful precision of Genesis 1:27. This simple statement holds profound implications for our understanding of gender and sexuality. God created humanity with two distinct yet complementary genders: male and female. This is not a social construct or a matter of personal choice; it is a divinely ordained reality, woven into the very fabric of our being.

God's design for humanity includes the complementary creation of male and female. Our biological differences aren't arbitrary or meaningless—they're intentional aspects of God's good design. Neither gender is superior to the other; rather, each reveals different facets of God's character.

In a culture that often seeks to blur or erase gender distinctions, the Bible stands firm. Some argue that gender is merely a social construct with no inherent meaning. Others suggest that gender exists on a spectrum and can be chosen according to one's feelings. The biblical view offers a different perspective: our biological sex is a God-given gift that shapes our identity in profound and meaningful ways. Men and women are equally made in God's image, yet they possess unique qualities and roles that complement one another.

In Ephesians 5, Paul reveals that marriage between a man and woman was designed to picture Christ's relationship with the church. Our gender complementarity isn't arbitrary—it tells a divine story of unity in diversity, mutual love and respect, and distinct yet equally valuable roles.

### Reflection Questions:

- How does the biblical understanding of gender differ from prevailing cultural views?
- How can you celebrate and affirm God's design for gender in your own life and relationships?

**Practical Application:**

Take some time to reflect on how your identity as a man or woman has shaped your experience of God and others. If you're married, consider discussing with your spouse how your differences complement each other. If you're single, seek to understand and appreciate the unique qualities that God has given to each gender.

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for creating humanity as male and female, both bearing Your divine image. I praise You for the wisdom in Your design and the purpose behind our differences. Help me to embrace my identity as a man/ woman as a gift from You. In a world of confusion, ground me in the truth of Your Word. Help me to respect and honor those of the opposite gender as equal image-bearers, celebrating our differences rather than resenting them. Guide me to find my identity not in cultural expectations but in Your perfect design. In Jesus' name, Amen!

## Day 3: MARRED, BUT NOT ERASED

### Scripture Reading:

- o Genesis 3:1-7
- o Romans 3:23
- o Romans 8:18-23

### Devotional:

When God created humanity in His image, everything was "very good." Adam and Eve enjoyed perfect communion with God, each other, and creation. Their intellect, emotions, and wills functioned in perfect harmony with God's design. But Genesis 3 recounts the tragic moment when sin entered the world, and with it came the fracturing of God's image in humanity.

The effects of sin are evident in every aspect of our lives: our thoughts, our desires, our relationships, and our actions. We are no longer the perfect reflections of God that we were created to be. This is why the world feels broken. Why relationships are hard. Why we struggle with insecurity, comparison, and identity. Sin has tainted every part of our existence. Instead of naturally reflecting God's goodness, we often reflect selfishness and pride.

However, it is crucial to understand that the image of God has not been entirely erased. Despite our sinfulness, we still bear the imprint of our Creator. This is why human life retains its inherent value and dignity. This is why murder is wrong. Even in our fallen state, we are still capable of reflecting God's character, albeit imperfectly. Recognizing this truth should inspire both humility and hope. Humility, because we are desperately in need of redemption; hope, because God has not abandoned us to our brokenness.

### Reflection Questions:

- In what ways do you see the effects of sin in your own life?
- How does knowing that you still bear God's image, despite your sin, give you hope?

### Practical Application:

Take time to identify one area where sin has particularly distorted God's image in your life—perhaps in how you think, feel, relate to others, or use your creative abilities. Confess this to God, thanking Him that in Christ, this aspect of His image is being restored in you. Consider sharing this with a trusted Christian friend who can pray with you.

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, I confess that Your image in me has been damaged by sin. My thoughts, desires, and actions often reflect my fallen nature rather than Your character. Thank You that even in my brokenness, I still bear Your image and have inherent worth in Your eyes. Help me to see the areas where sin has most deeply marred Your image in me, and give me the courage to bring these areas into Your light. I'm grateful that You don't leave me in my brokenness but are working to restore Your image in me through Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen!

## Day 4: RESTORED IN CHRIST

### Scripture Reading:

- o Colossians 1:15-20
- o Romans 8:29
- o 2 Corinthians 5:17

### Devotional:

If sin has marred God's image in us, how can it be restored? The answer is Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:15 tells us that Jesus is "the image of the invisible God." Where Adam failed as God's image-bearer, Jesus succeeded perfectly.

The good news of the Gospel is that the image of God can be restored in us through faith in Jesus Christ. When we repent of our sins and trust in Christ's atoning sacrifice, we are born again into a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come! We are no longer defined by our sin but by our identity in Christ.

As we grow in our faith, the Holy Spirit works within us to conform us to the image of Christ, who is the perfect image of God. This is a lifelong process of sanctification, as we learn to think, feel, and act more like Jesus. As we put off our old selves and put on our new selves, we become more and more like the people God intended us to be.

### Reflection Questions:

- In what areas of your life have you seen God restoring His image in you since you became a Christian?
- What practices or disciplines have been most helpful in your transformation into Christ's likeness?

### Practical Application:

Today, focus on cultivating Christ-like qualities in your life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). Seek to reflect God's character in your relationships, your words, and your actions.

### Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus, the perfect image-bearer, to restore what was broken in me. I'm amazed that Your plan isn't just to forgive me but to transform me into the likeness of Your Son. Forgive me for the times I've

resisted this work of restoration by clinging to old patterns and sinful habits. Holy Spirit, continue Your work in me today, renewing my mind, healing my emotions, and strengthening my will to choose what honors You. Help me to fix my eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of my faith, so that I might grow to reflect Him more clearly each day. In Jesus' name, Amen!



## Day 5: LIVING AS IMAGE-BEARERS

### Scripture Reading:

- o Matthew 5:13-16
- o Ephesians 4:24
- o Colossians 3:10
- o James 3:7-12
- o 1 Peter 2:9-12

### Devotional:

As we conclude our week reflecting on the Imago Dei, we turn our attention to the practical question: How then shall we live? If we are created in God's image, marred by sin, and being restored in Christ, what difference should this make in our daily lives?

First, understanding the Imago Dei transforms how we view ourselves. We aren't cosmic accidents or merely advanced animals. We're divine image-bearers with inherent dignity and eternal significance. This truth liberates us from both arrogance and self-loathing. We're neither gods who can define our own reality nor worthless creatures whose lives lack meaning. We find our true identity not in our accomplishments, appearance, or social status, but in our relationship to our Creator.

Second, the Imago Dei revolutionizes how we treat others. James 3 highlights the inconsistency of praising God while cursing people "who have been made in God's likeness." Every human being—regardless of race, gender, ability, political affiliation, or moral behavior—deserves respect and dignity as a bearer of God's image. This doesn't mean we approve of sinful behavior or avoid speaking truth, but it does mean we recognize the sacred worth of every person we encounter.

Third, as restored image-bearers, we have a mission to represent God faithfully to the world. In 1 Peter 2, Christians are described as "a royal priesthood" and "God's special possession" called to "declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." Just as Adam and Eve were placed in Eden to cultivate and care for it as God's representatives, we're called to be God's ambassadors wherever He places us.

Jesus used the metaphors of salt and light to describe this representative role. Salt preserves, flavors, and creates thirst; light illuminates, guides, and reveals beauty. As God's image-bearers, we're called to live in ways that make the world

more as God intends it to be—more just, more compassionate, more truthful, more beautiful. Our lives should create a holy curiosity in others, prompting the question: What makes you different?

This representative role extends to every domain of life: our families, workplaces, social media presence, civic engagement, and creative pursuits. In each context, we have the privilege and responsibility of reflecting God's character through our words and actions.

### **Reflection Questions:**

- How would your daily life change if you consistently remembered that you are a bearer of God's image?
- In what relationships or situations do you find it most difficult to recognize and respect God's image in others?
- What aspect of God's character are you uniquely positioned to reflect in your current season of life?

### **Practical Application:**

Consider one environment where you regularly interact with others (family, workplace, neighborhood, etc.). How might you more intentionally represent God's character in this context? Choose one specific action you can take today to better reflect God's image to those around you—perhaps by showing compassion, speaking truth, creating beauty, or promoting justice.

### **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the incredible privilege of bearing Your image. Help me to live today fully aware of this sacred identity and calling. Guard me from both pride that would make me forget my dependence on You and insecurity that would make me doubt my value to You. Give me eyes to recognize Your image in everyone I meet today, especially those I find difficult to love. Use me as Your representative in my home, workplace, and community. May my words and actions create a thirst for You in others. Empower me to reflect Your truth, love, justice, and creativity in ways that draw others to Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen!