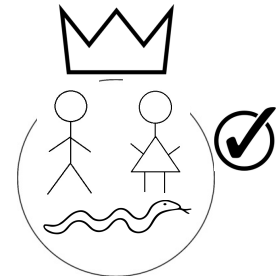


Creation: The image of God

1. God's purpose is to have a world filled with image-bearers

Human beings are created to be Like God, and to rule for God

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it..." (Genesis 1:26-28; cf. 5:3)



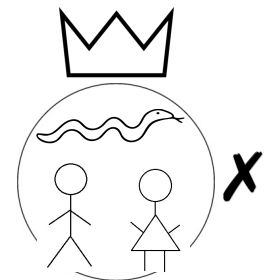
➔ ...so therefore we have inherent dignity

⁸ ...no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ ...My brothers, these things ought not to be so. (James 3:8-10; cf. Genesis 9:6)

2. Human beings rebelled and the image was distorted

We are now no longer like God, and we are enslaved

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:1-3; cf. Genesis 3:5)



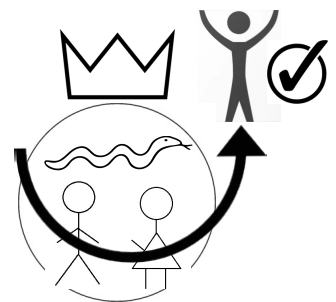
3. Christ has always been the True Image of God

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created... (Colossians 1:15-16; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Hebrews 1:3)

As man Christ was like God, resisted the devil, and was raised up to rule everything

²⁰ ...[God] raised [Christ] from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:20-23; cf. Psalm 8:6; Hebrews 2:5-9)



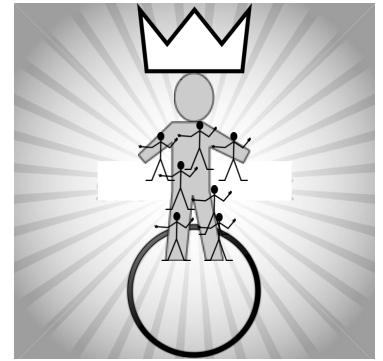
4. Through Christ God's original plan for creation is fulfilled

The image of God in us can be renewed

⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being **renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator**. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. (Colossians 3:9-11; Ephesians 4:24; 2 Corinthians 3:18)

we are raised above the hostile powers to rule

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by grace you have been saved— ⁶ **and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...** ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:4-6, 10; cf. 2 Timothy 2:12)



➡ so people being in Christ is the priority

...and the world will finally be filled with Christ-like image-bearers

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to **the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (Romans 8:29)

⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear **the image of the man of heaven**. (1 Corinthians 15:49)

➡ Rejoice in hope!