

# The Image of God - Reflections on the Early Part of Genesis

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." ... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26a, 27

Creation		Fall (Total Depravity)	Redemption & Restoration
God - the Creator	Man - In the Image of God		
God is Spirit - He exists without any physical body.	<b>Genesis 2:7 - A Spiritual Being</b> - Man has spiritual life, as well as physical life.	Man is spiritually dead because of sin. As soon as they disobeyed God they experienced spiritual death.	Jesus's death and resurrection allows man to have life again, eternal and abundant life.
God is three persons in one, we see the eternal relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.	<b>Genesis 2:25 - Relationship with God</b> - God created man to be in fellowship with Him and each other	<b>Genesis 3:8</b> - Fellowship with God is broken - man is hiding, God still seeks him.	Jesus restores fellowship with God - the NT talks about those who are far off being drawn to fellowship
God is the sovereign ruler of the entire universe, and through His power, all of creation is sustained.	<b>Genesis 1:26b, 28 - Vice-Regent</b> - God created man to have dominion over all of the earth.	Man now abuses and destroys the earth. The earth, as part of the curse, is no longer fully under his control.	Romans teaches that even creation will be restored through Christ's work, we see this in the end of Revelation.
<b>Genesis 1:3,6,9, ... 28, 29; 2:18</b> - God spoke all of creation into existence and speaks directly to man.	<b>Genesis 2:23</b> - The first action of man recorded is speaking. Man seems to be unique in <b>communication</b> .	Communication with God and between Adam and Eve is broken. James talks about the evil tongue.	God sends the prophets to tell his message. Jesus comes as the perfect communication from God
God exists as three persons in one, each has different roles but they exist in perfect harmony (oneness).	<b>Genesis 1:26a, 27 - Diversity</b> - God creates male and female but Adam says "they become one flesh".	Adam immediately blames Eve for causing him to sin. All of the Bible is full of nationality hating nationality.	Jesus reconciles Jew and Gentile, male and female, so we are all one in Christ.
God is a living example of perfect relationship between the persons of the trinity.	<b>Genesis 1:27c; 2:23-24</b> - God creates man and woman so they may have <b>relationship with each other</b> .	As soon as man falls relationships are broken. The Bible is full of man hating his fellow man, for example Cain.	Jesus comes to teach us about love, the church being a primary place where people experience this.
All of creation is in place to bring glory and honor to God, the greatest of all beings.	<b>Genesis 1:29-30; 2:8-9, 15-16</b> - God has made man the <b>apex or focus of his creation</b> on the earth.	Man has tried to position himself above God, to take God's glory to himself.	We again see and recognize the glory of God in Jesus and he will receive the praise of all creation.
God is the creator of all things.	<b>Genesis 2:5, 8</b> - Man is <b>creative</b> , not making things from nothing, but making new things.	Man's creative power are broken, creating, at times, things of great evil.	We are new creations in Christ.
God is the source of all life.	<b>Genesis 2:21-22; 4:1-2</b> - Eve gets her <b>life</b> from Adam and they give new life to their children.	We not only get physical life from Adam, but also both physical and spiritual death.	Through the second Adam, we receive new life, both spiritual now, and in heaven, physical life.

He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:15-17