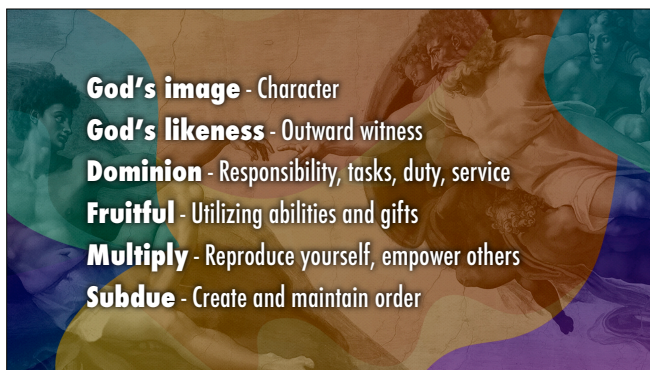


This is an instance where a biblical worldview is helpful. A Christian worldview only applies to Christians, but a biblical worldview is for everyone.



We know what imago Dei meant to Adam. What does it mean to us?

What is the imago Dei?

Imago Dei is the Latin term for “image of God.”

Knowing who you are is foundational to both a healthy self-image and a strong sense of purpose.

Humankind was created to be an image bearer of the Creator. This ideal state was to be a representation of who God is and what He is like. Of course, humanity is far from this ideal state. “The imago Dei is not a quality possessed by man; it is a condition in which man lives, a condition of confrontation established and maintained by the Creator. ... The imago Dei is that in man which constitutes him as him—whom—God—loves.” —John Piper

IMAGE OF GOD



Video from www.thebibleproject.com

Is the image of God something that only belongs to Christians?
Did sin remove the image of God?
No. Man's fall into sin didn't destroy or remove the image of God. Sin obscured the Imago Dei. Sin always darkens and distorts reality. The apostle James confirms that God's image is in when he states that all people, not only Christ followers, People maintain the image of God — even in a broken or distorted form. People are redeemable and worth redeeming. Without imago Dei, God would have had no reason to send His Son to die on our behalf.

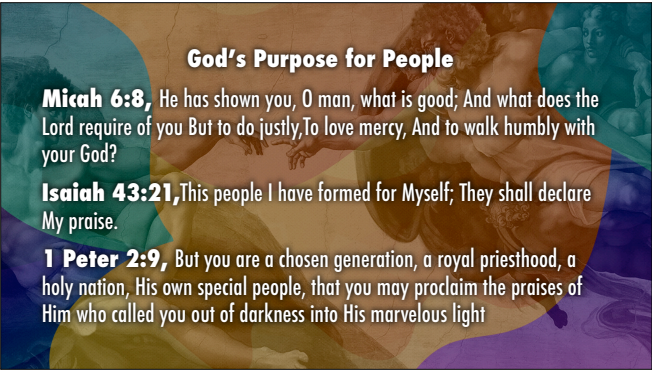
IMAGO DEI

(The Image of God)

Pt. 1 - Who Am I?

Pt. 2 - Restoring Human Identity & Purpose

Pt. 3 - Why Am I?

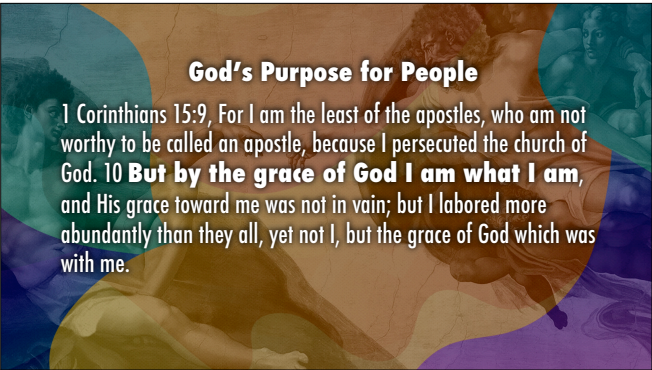


God's Purpose for People

Micah 6:8, He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

Isaiah 43:21, This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise.

1 Peter 2:9, But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light



God's Purpose for People

1 Corinthians 15:9, For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 **But by the grace of God I am what I am,** and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

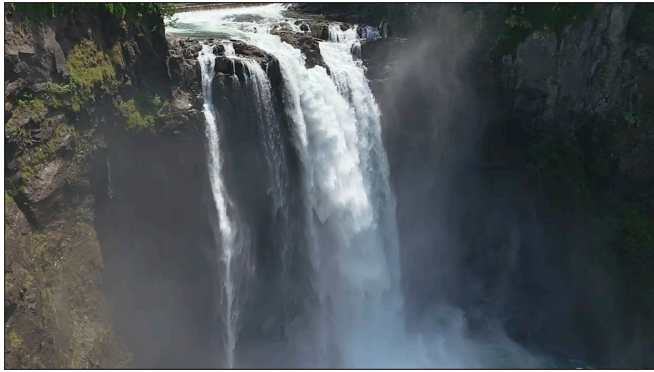
What I am in Christ, grace has made. Grace is favor, but it is also God's ability and heaven's resources made available to you



Imago Dei of God Calls to Imago Dei in You

Psalms 42:7, **Deep calls unto deep** at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your **waves and billows have gone over me.** 8 The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song shall be with me—A prayer to the God of my life.

“Waves and billows have gone over me.”
Speaks of intensity
They do not lightly sprinkle me, but almost overwhelm me.
he says that he feels just as though all these threatening masses of water were following like so many waves of misfortune over his head

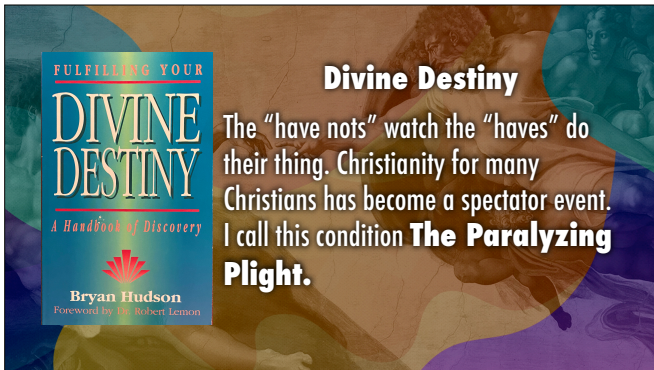


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Speaks of intensity

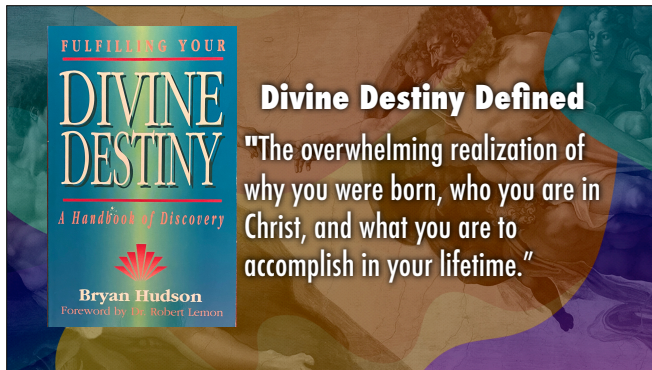
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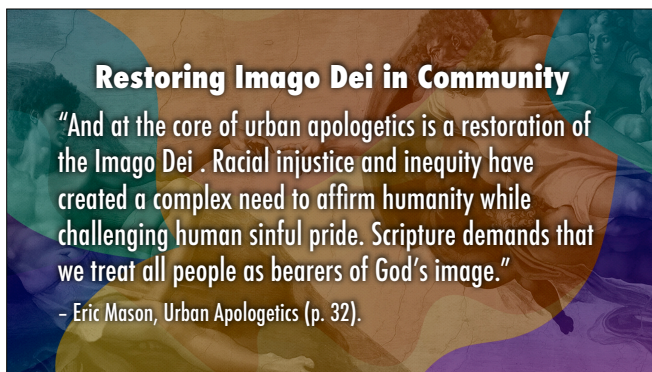
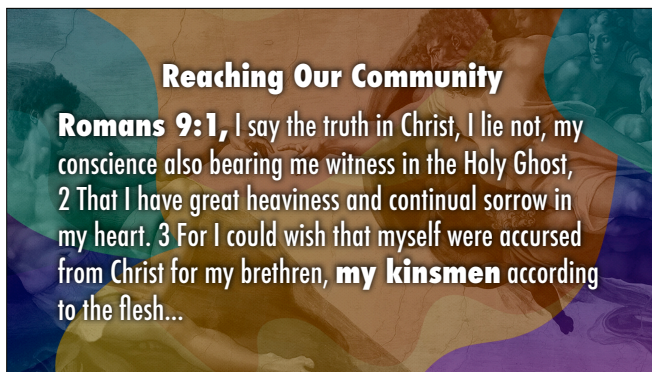


From my first book written in 1990

The “have nots” watch the “haves” do their thing. Christianity for many Christians has become a spectator event. I call this condition The Paralyzing Plight. Symptoms include: routine church attendance, joyless giving, deriving identity from famous ministries, yet all the while never understanding what one’s own purpose is in life.



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“And at the core of urban apologetics is a restoration of the Imago Dei . Racial injustice and inequity have created a complex need to affirm humanity while challenging human sinful pride. Scripture demands that we treat all people as bearers of God’s image.”
– Eric Mason, Urban Apologetics (p. 32).



Restoring Imago Dei in Community

A central preoccupation of African American culture has been to confront the wounds and scars of African American people, and historically the Black church has labored greatly in this effort. However, a new generation does not know the bridge that has brought us over troubled waters in the past. They see the church as dated and impotent and are exploring cults, sects, and new ideologies...Today's African American church must engage the work of urban apologetics and learn to answer the popular barbershop questions people are asking while introducing the illuminating and transcendent truth of the gospel.

– Eric Mason, Urban Apologetics (p. 51).

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Restoring Imago Dei in Community

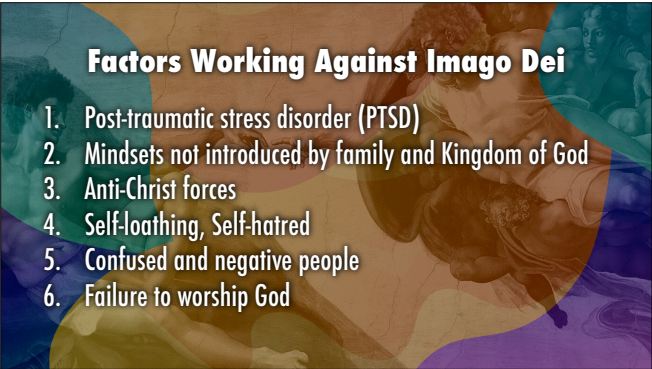
Religious and Ethnic Identity Groups confuse the image of God in people

The Nation of Islam - God is a man, Allah is the latest
Hebrew Israelites - Christianity is a white man's religion
Kemeticism - Egyptian religion called Kemet
Black Conscious Community - Started in South Africa
Black Atheism

The groups capitalism on people disenchantment with the church or confusion and misinformation the nature of the Christian faith. Many us the strawman, Christianity is a “White Man’s religion.” Dr. Mason point out that the founders of Religious and Ethnic Identity Groups were white men, Including the nation of Islam. Most scholars agree that W. D. Fard founded the Nation of Islam in 1930. What is debated, however, is Fard’s identity, as he had no less than fifty different aliases. The Nation of Islam teaches that Wallace D. Fard, or Master Farrad Muhammad, was a light-skinned Black Arab with wavy hair from Mecca and was Allah in person. According to NOI teaching, Fard appeared like a white man so that he could maneuver among whites unsuspectingly and teach the Black man his true identity.

Fard disappeared in 1934, creating a leadership vacuum that Elijah Muhammad quickly filled. Elijah Muhammad began to claim that he was the messenger or prophet of Allah and that Fard was Allah in person. He

Mason, Eric. Urban Apologetics (p. 71). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.



Factors Working Against Imago Dei

1. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
2. Mindsets not introduced by family and Kingdom of God
3. Anti-Christ forces
4. Self-loathing, Self-hatred
5. Confused and negative people
6. Failure to worship God

Factors that work against Imago Dei

1. PTSD, Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a mental health condition that's triggered by a terrifying event — either experiencing it or witnessing it. Symptoms may include flashbacks, nightmares and severe anxiety, as well as uncontrollable thoughts about the event.⁶⁴ Most people who go through traumatic events may have temporary difficulty adjusting and coping, but with time and good self-care, they usually get better. If the symptoms get worse, last for months or even years, and interfere with your day-to-day functioning, you may have PTSD.



Imago Dei Maximized

Psalm 92:13, Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish **in the courts** of our God

“Today, let's realize that we could all probably use some weeding and access to the light. Let's be willing to be cared for by God, and be called his, and not insist on growing wild on our own instead. In the house of the Lord, we can flourish.”

<https://scripturalcommentary.blogspot.com/2019/10/psalm-9213-14-on-flourishing.html>



Reflections

1. Why was I born?
2. What place does Imago Dei have in my day-to-day life?
3. What is my role in the lives of others?