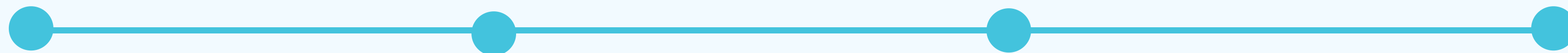


BIBLICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

WHAT GOD HAS REVEALED ABOUT HUMANS

BIBLICAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND THE GOSPEL

What God's Word Says About Humanity And Our Need for A Savior



CREATION

God created us male and female in His image to glorify God (Genesis 1:26-27) God's design was for obedience and perfect fellowship as humanity had dominion over the earth.

FALL

Humans sinned and separated ourselves from God. We are totally fallen and unable to get back to God (Romans 3:23). Further, the penalty for sin is death, and death is in the world because of our sin (Romans 5, 6:23).

REDEMPTION

Jesus paid the penalty for our sin on the cross (1 Peter 2:24), so that we could be saved. Salvation is a free gift we receive when we repent and believe the Gospel (Romans 6:23, 10:9-10).

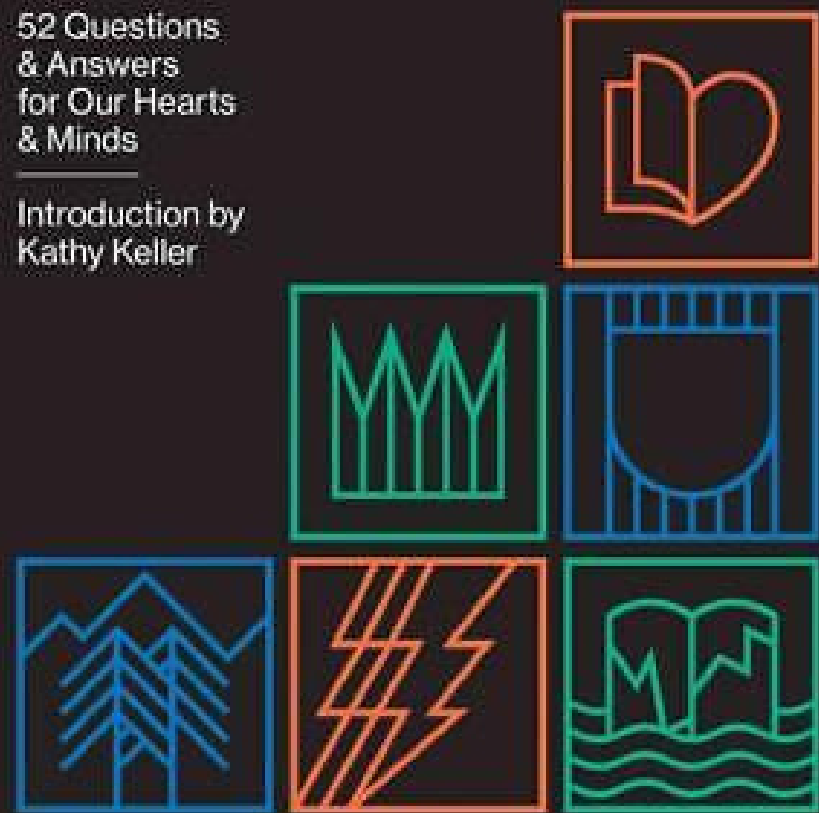
RESTORATION

Jesus restores us into relationship with God, and ultimately restores us into the image of Christ (Romans 8). Ultimately, he restores His creation as the effects of sin are removed (Romans 5:12-21, Revelation 21:4-5).

The New City Catechism

52 Questions
& Answers
for Our Hearts
& Minds

Introduction by
Kathy Keller



QUESTION 4: HOW AND WHY DID GOD CREATE US?

GOD CREATED US MALE AND FEMALE
IN HIS IMAGE TO GLORIFY GOD.

GOD'S GLORY

HIS PURPOSE IN CREATING MAN

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 1:16-17

...everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.-Isaiah 43:7 (regarding the redeemed)

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. -Romans 9:17

(regarding unbelievers)



IMPLICATIONS

His Purpose in Creating Man

GOD OWNS HIS CREATION (YOU)

The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it. -Psalm 24:1

GOD CAN DO WHAT HE WANTS WITH US

But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" -Romans 9:20 (reference to Isaiah 45:9)

HE WILL RECEIVE GLORY EITHER WAY

God will be glorified in His redeeming the believing.
God will be glorified in His destruction of the unregenerate.
(Isaiah 43:1-7, Romans 8 and 9)

GOD'S IMAGE (*IMAGO DEI*)

MANKIND'S REFLECTION/LIKENESS OF GOD

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." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

-Genesis 1:26-27



What the Image of God Is NOT:

- **NOT PHYSICAL (DIRECTLY)**

God is Spirit. Thus, our bodies are not the primary focus of the imago dei. It isn't about having a body like God's, because He is Spirit. However, as our physical bodies inherently part of our being (not "just a shell") we cannot ignore the fact that God has created us with physicality that cannot be divorced from our role as image-bearers.

In fact, our bodies are uniquely designed to allow us to live out our roles as image-bearers. For instance, language and creativity are part of the imago dei, but we need our bodies to engage in both.

- **NOT FUNCTIONAL**

Some theorize the image of God is based on what humans can do, assuming that functional awareness, speech, creativity, etc. make us image bearers. This view is popular among evolutionists who argue that as man "evolves" his role as image bearer changes in accordance with function.

- **NOT EXPERIENTIAL/RELATIONAL**

Some theorize that the image of God is something that we come into by experience in relationship. This ignores the fact that God MADE us in His image. The *imago dei* is part of our being (ontological) regardless of our experience.

THE IMAGE OF GOD IS HOW WE ARE CREATED, NOT WHAT WE DO!

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." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

-Genesis 1:26-27



WHAT IS THE THE IMAGE OF GOD (*IMAGO DEI*)?

SOMETHING YOU ARE, NOT SOMETHING YOU DO

Whatever is involved in the image of God it is how God made us. Thus, it is ontological, tied to our nature/being (not experience or function). It is only physical in so much as our bodies are part of who we are as God made us.

We are set apart from creation with intellectual, moral, and spiritual capacities that allow us to love, have self-awareness, care about justice, grace, and mercy. This reflects God's nature (communicable attributes). Our existence brings Him glory.

IMAGE OF GOD IN PRACTICAL LIFE

PRACTICAL WAYS HUMANS SEEM TO REFLECT GOD'S IMAGE

LANGUAGE

Humans have a unique ability to communicate with verbal and written language.

CREATIVITY

Humans have the capacity to engage in art, music, and other creative pursuits.

LOVE

People love one another, showing care in ways that are distinct from mere instinct.

(not an exhaustive list)

HOLINESS

Humans are set apart from creation and are designed to walk in godliness

IMMORTALITY

Man doesn't just seek survival, he seeks immortality. The desire for immortality is a mark of an image-bearer.

FREEDOM

Having a will and personal strength, man seeks to work according to his own volition.

The Image of God and The Gospel



**GOD CREATED HUMANS,
MALE AND FEMALE, IN HIS
IMAGE FOR HIS OWN
GLORY**

(Genesis 9:6; James 3:8–9)



**SIN HAS DEVASTATING
EFFECTS ON THE IMAGE
OF GOD, THOUGH WE
ARE STILL IN HIS IMAGE**

(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1–4, Genesis
9:6; James 3:8–9)



**SALVATION IN CHRIST
ULTIMATELY INVOLVES
BEING CONFORMED TO
THE IMAGE OF CHRIST!**

(Romans 8:28–30; Ephesians 4:24;
Colossians 3:5–10; 2 Corinthians 3:18).

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

1 JOHN 4:7-16