

**UNION FOURSQUARE GOSPEL CHURCH, 404 NORTH BROAD STREET,
ELIZABETH, NJ**

BIBLE STUDY OUT LINE

10/13/2020

THEME: CREATED IN HIS IMAGE: GEN.1: 26-31, EPH.2: 10-11

TOPIC: Damaged but Restored

TEXT: Eph.2: 2 - 10

The focus of discussion on the theme for this month *Created in God's Image* has been centered on the form and purposes for which the Trinity decided to create mankind in His likeness. According to G. Piper, "Humankind was created to be a graphic image of the Creator – a formal, visible, and understandable representation of who God is and what He's really like". As already stated, the likeness (attributes), which He shared with humans include dominion, fellowship, holiness, righteousness, blessings. No wonder, God declared "everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good" Gen.1: 31.

What the Image of God is Not:

Scripture reveals God as Spirit (John 4: 24). Animals and humans have physical frames (bodies) that show a common design with lower and upper limbs, head with eyes, nose, mouth etc. (1Cor.12: 14 -17). Jesus Christ stepped into His creation taking on the form of a man without losing His deity (Phil.2: 7). Jesus became flesh to show the world God's glory and true image – John 1: 14; 1John 1: 2 – 3. In Christ, human body became the temple of the Holy Spirit and to be used as instrument of righteousness – 1 Cor. 6: 19; Rom.6: 12-13.

The Fall of Man and God's Image:

Man's fall into sin has great consequences on the image, though it did not destroy or remove it, it disfigured it – Gen.3: 16 – 24; Rom.5: 12 – 14; - human lost his dominion (vv.22, 23) human race and ground cursed (16 – 19), death came into life (Rom.5: 12- 14); and evil offspring extending Satan's rule (Gen. 3: 15).

Restoring God's Image Through Christ Jesus:

All that God created "was very good" (Gen.1: 31). Humanity was created in righteousness and perfect innocence, a reflection of God's holiness. Socially, man was created for fellowship (Gen.3: 8, Gen.2: 18. But by choice man's sin disfigured God's glorious image (Rom.5:12). Even though we bear the image, the scars of sin is still obvious – James 3: 9.

The good new is that Jesus came to redeem the disfigured image Eph. 2: 8 – 10, man got back a "new life" Eph.4: 24., 2Cor.5: 17. Through Christ, we are made new creations in the likeness of God.