

Fallen Masterpiece

Man as the Image of God

Pastor Mike Riccardi



What's Wrong with the World?

A fundamentally
anti-biblical
doctrine of man.



What's Wrong with the World?

A fundamentally
anti-biblical
anthropology.



What's Wrong with the World?

A fundamentally
anti-biblical
anthropology.

- **Who** is man?
- **What** is man?
- **Why** are we here?
- **Where** do we come from?
- What has gone **wrong** with the world?



What's Wrong with the World?

A fundamentally
anti-biblical
anthropology.

- What has gone wrong with **my own heart**?
- Why am I **not the way I want** to be?
- **What does it mean** to be human rather than an animal or plant?
- Is there a basis for **morality**?



What's Wrong with the World?

A fundamentally
anti-biblical
anthropology.

- Fornication
- Divorce
- Homosexuality
- Gender Identity
- Abortion
- Racism



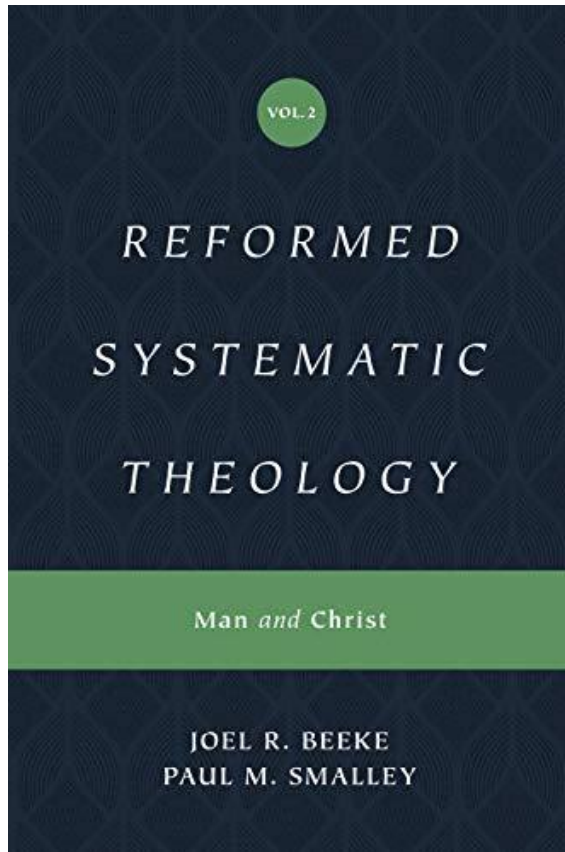
What's Wrong with the World?

“The contemporary conception of man, on the one hand, doesn't make **enough** of man, and, on the other, makes **too much** of him.”

— Martyn Lloyd-Jones



A Fallen Masterpiece



Man
“is no conglomeration
of blind accidents,
but a fallen
masterpiece
of God.”



The Foundation of Identity

“God **created** man in His own **image**.”

Creatures

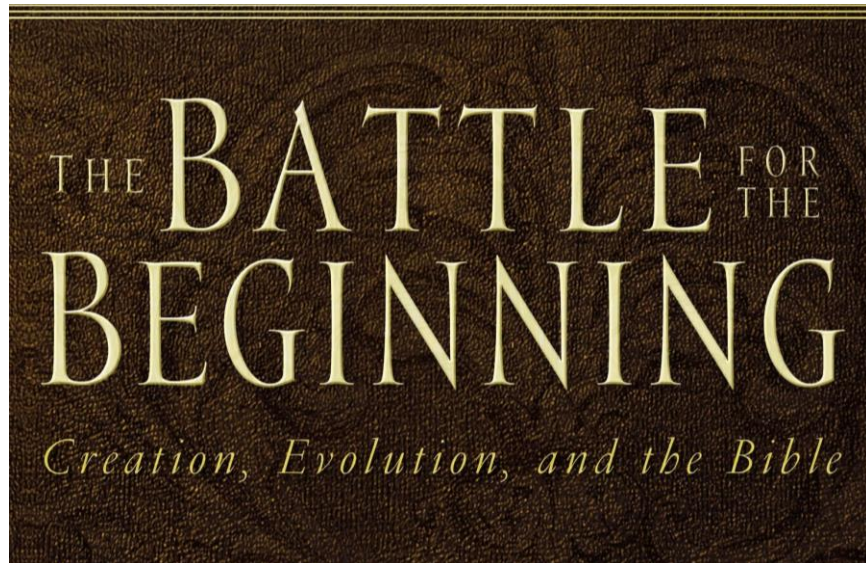
Image-bearers

Week 1: Creation and Historical Adam

Week 2: Man as the Image of God



Creation Under Attack



If you want to free man from accountability to his Creator, you start at the very root: undermine the doctrine of creation.



The Foundation of Identity

“God **created** man in His own **image**.”

Creatures

Image-bearers

Week 1: Creation and Historical Adam

Week 2: Man as the Image of God



The Foundation of Identity

“Let Us make man in Our **image**,
according to Our **likeness**.”

“God created man
in His own **image**,
in the **image** of God

He created him;
male and female He created
them.

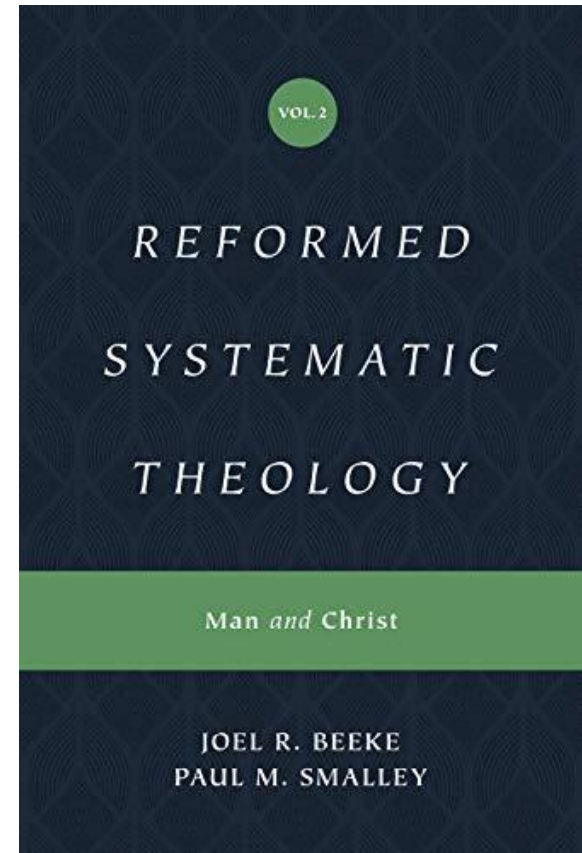
Week 1: Creatures

Week 2: Image-
bearers



Man as Image-Bearer

“The **value** of all things lies in their manifestation of the **glory of God**, and God has chosen to **concentrate** his revealed glory in the **human** race.”



Importance of the *Imago*

- Who are we?
- Where do we come from?
- What is our purpose?
- To whom are we accountable?
- How are we to function?



Importance of the *Imago*

- Who are we?
 - Where do we come from?
 - What is our purpose?
 - To whom are we accountable?
 - How are we to function?
- Relationship to **God**
 - Relationship to **other people**
 - Relationship to **other creatures**



Importance of the *Imago*

- Human Dignity
- Ethics
- Relations between Men and Women
- Family
- Ethnic Justice
- Relationship to **God**
- Relationship to **other people**
- Relationship to **other creatures**



Key Biblical Passages

- Genesis 1:26–27 – “Let Us make man in Our **image**...”
- Genesis 5:1 – “In the day when God created man, He made him in the **likeness** of God.”
- Genesis 9:6 – “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the **image of God** He made man.”



Key Biblical Passages

- 1 Corinthians 11:7 – “For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the **image** and glory of God.”
- James 3:9 – “With it [i.e., the tongue] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the **likeness** of God.”



Key Biblical Terms

Image (Heb. *tselem*; Gk. *eikōn*)

- Carved images; especially idols
 - Numbers 33:52 – “...and destroy all their figured stones, and destroy all their molten **images** and demolish all their high places.”
 - 2 Kings 11:18 – “All the people of the land went to the house of Baal, and tore it down; his altars and his **images** they broke in pieces thoroughly.”
 - See also: Ezekiel 7:20; 16:17; 23:14; Amos 5:26



Key Biblical Terms

Image (Heb. *tselem*; Gk. *eikōn*)

- Carved images; especially idols
- Romans 1:23 – “...exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an **image** [*eikōn*] in the form [*homoïoma*] of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.”
 - Genesis 1:26–27 – “Let Us make man in Our **image** [LXX: *eikōn*], according to Our **likeness** [LXX: *homoïoma*]...”



Key Biblical Terms

Likeness (Heb. *demuth*; Gk. *homoiosis, homoioma*)

- Model, shape, pattern; to be like something
 - 2 Kings 6:10 – “Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the **pattern** of the altar and its model.” (See Ezek 1:10, 13, 16.)
 - 2 Chronicles 4:3 – “Now **figures** like oxen were under [the altar]...” (See Ezek 1:5.)
 - Psalm 58:4 – “They have venom **like** the venom of a serpent; **Like** a deaf cobra that stops up its ear.” (See also Isa 13:4; Ezek 1:22, 26; 10:1; 23:15.)



Key Biblical Terms

Likeness (Heb. *demuth*; Gk. *homoiosis, homoioma*)

- Model, shape, pattern; to be like something
 - Ezekiel 1:28 – “Such was the appearance of the **likeness** of the glory of Yahweh.” (See Ezek 8:2, 10:10, 21–22; Dan 10:16.)
 - Romans 5:14 – “...even over those who had not sinned in the **likeness** of the offense of Adam.” (See Rom 6:5; 8:3; Phil 2:7.)
 - Revelation 9:7 – “The **appearance** of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle.”



Key Biblical Terms

Image and Likeness Together

- Genesis 1:26 – “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our **image** [*tselem*], according to Our **likeness** [*demuth*].”
- Genesis 5:3 – Adam fathered Seth “in his own **likeness** [*demuth*], according to his **image** [*tselem*]...”



Key Biblical Terms

Image and Likeness Together

- Ezekiel 23:14–15 – “So she increased her harlotries. And she saw men portrayed on the wall, **images** [*tselem*] of the Chaldeans portrayed with vermilion, girded with belts on their loins, with flowing turbans on their heads, all of them looking **like** officers, **like** [*demuth*; ESV: a likeness of] the Babylonians in Chaldea, the land of their birth.”
- Romans 1:23 – “...**an image** [*eikōn*] **in the form** [*homoïoma*] of corruptible man...”



Key Biblical Terms

Image and Likeness Together

- “...almost interchangeably...” (Hoekema, *Created in God’s Image*, 163).
- “...the two terms appear to explain each other” (Beeke & Smalley, *RST*, 2:163).



Key Biblical Terms

Image and Likeness Together

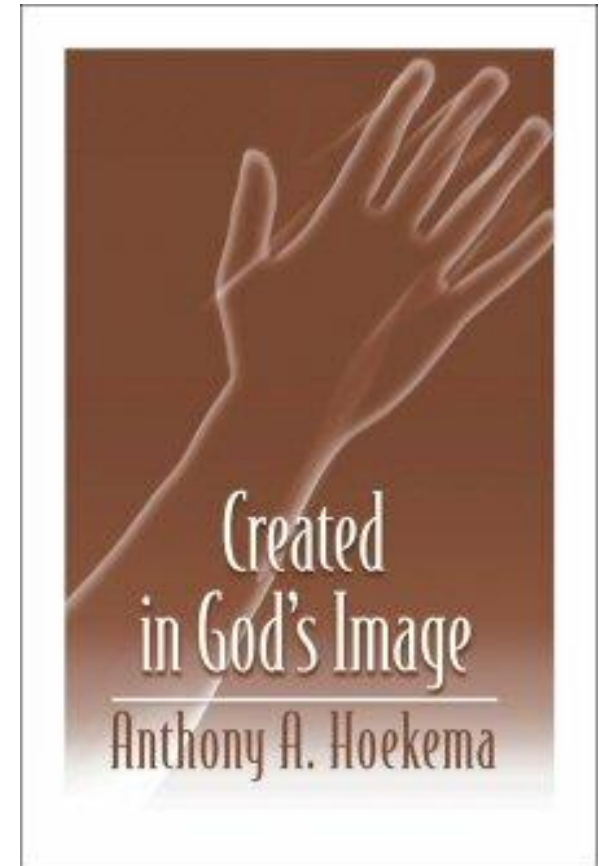
- “...almost interchangeably...” (Hoekema, *Created in God’s Image*, 163).
- “...the two terms appear to explain each other” (Beeke & Smalley, *RST*, 2:163).
- “The words ‘image’ and ‘likeness’ are used synonymously and interchangeably, and therefore do not refer to two different things. In Gen. 1:26 both words are used, but in the twenty-seventh verse only the first. This is evidently considered sufficient to express the whole idea” (Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, 203).



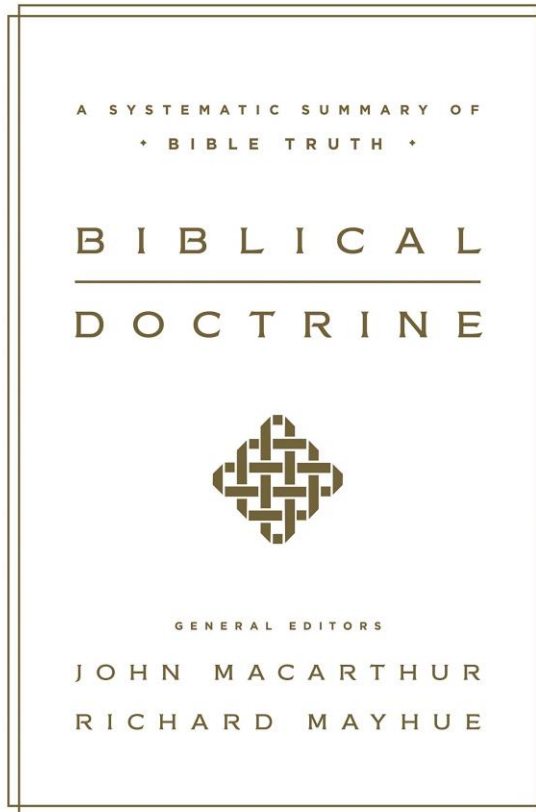
Summary & Definition

“The two words together ...
tell us that man is a
representation of God
who is **like** God
in certain respects.”

— Hoekema, *Created in God's Image*, 13



Summary & Definition



“In the ancient world, a king or a ruler would place an image or idol of himself in his realm to symbolize his sovereignty there. When others saw the image, they knew who had control. Likewise, God’s image bearers represent God in the world.”

— *Biblical Doctrine*, 410



Summary & Definition

Being created in the image of God means that we are **like** God in very important ways, and that we **represent** God in the world in a way that is unique among the other creatures.



Features of the *Imago Dei*

1. Representation (Attributes)

- The divine image “consists in a faint resemblance to the communicable attributes of God” (Brakel, *The Christian’s Reasonable Service*, 1:323).
- “We expect the image of God to be analogous in a finite way to the infinite **power, authority, wisdom,** and **goodness** that God manifested in creating the world” (Beeke & Smalley, *RST*, 2:163).



Features of the *Imago Dei*

2. Reverence (Worship)

- Just as sinful men make images of their gods, that they might worship a visual expression of their idols, so also the true God makes images of Himself to multiply the worship of Himself.
- Just as “we resemble what we revere,” we are to revere what we were made to resemble.



Features of the *Imago Dei*

3. Relationship

- Genesis 1:26 – “Let **Us** make man in **Our** image...”
- Genesis 1:27 – “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; **male and female** He created them.”



Features of the *Imago Dei*

3. Relationship

- Genesis 1:26 – “Let **Us** make man in **Our** image...”
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- Marriage and Family
- Society
- Sonship



Features of the *Imago Dei*

3. Relationship

- To God – Love and Worship
- To Fellow Man – Love as Ourselves
- To Inanimate Creation – Rule and Steward



Features of the *Imago Dei*

4. Rule / Reign (Dominion)

- Genesis 1:26 – “and let them **rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky...”
- Genesis 1:28 – “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and **subdue** it, and **rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over everything that moves on the earth.”



Features of the *Imago Dei*

4. Rule / Reign (Dominion)

- Psalm 8:4–8 – “What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You **crown** him with glory and **majesty**! You make him to **rule** over the works of Your hands; You have put all things **under his feet**, All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field, The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.”



Features of the *Imago Dei*

5. Rectitude (Morality)

- Genesis 1:31 – “God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was **very good**.”
- Ecclesiastes 7:29 – “God made man **upright**.”



Features of the *Imago Dei*

5. Rectitude (Morality)

- Colossians 3:10 – “...put on the new self, who is being renewed to a **true knowledge** according to the **image** [*eikōn*] of the One who created him.”
- Ephesians 4:23–24 – “...be **renewed** in the spirit of our mind, and put on the new self, which **in the likeness of God** has been created in **righteousness** and **holiness** of the truth.”



Features of the *Imago Dei*

5. Rectitude (Morality)

“That image did not consist merely in man’s rational nature, nor in his immortality, nor in his dominion, but specially in that **righteousness** and **holiness**, that **rectitude** in all his principles, which are inseparable from the possession of the truth, or true knowledge of God.”



— Charles Hodge, *Ephesians*, 193



Features of the *Imago Dei*

5. Rectitude – Lost!

- True knowledge vs. Futility of mind; darkened in understanding; ignorant (Eph 4:17)
- Righteousness vs. None righteous, not even one (Rom 3:10)
- Holiness vs. Unclean; filthy garment (Isa 64:6)



Features of the *Imago Dei*

6. Remaining

- Marred but not lost; distorted but not destroyed
- Genesis 9:1 – Repetition of the cultural mandate
- Genesis 9:6 – “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed, *for* in the **image of God** He made man.”

After the fall, man’s being created in the image of God is the ground upon which his life has dignity and worth, and thus is protected by the threat of death.



Features of the *Imago Dei*

6. Remaining

- After the fall, man's being created in the image of God is the ground upon which his life has dignity and worth, and thus is protected by the threat of death.
- James 3:9 – “With it [i.e., the tongue] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the **likeness** of God.”



Features of the *Imago Dei*

6. Remaining

- Knowledge of God
 - “Although they knew God...” (Rom 1:20)
- Conscience
 - “...they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness...” (Rom 2:15)
- General Kindness
 - “If you, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children...” (Matt 7:11)



Features of the *Imago Dei*

6. Remaining

- Knowledge of God (Rom 1:20)
- Conscience (Rom 2:15)
- General Kindness (Matt 7:11)
- Shadows of Virtue
 - “...holding to a form of godliness...” (2 Tim 3:5)
- Restraint of Sin
 - “...immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles...” (1 Cor 5:1)



Features of the *Imago Dei*

7. Realized (Perfected in Christ)

- 2 Corinthians 4:4 – “...the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the **image** [*eikōn*] of God.”
- Colossians 1:15 – “He is the **image** [*eikōn*] of the invisible God...”
- Hebrews 1:3 – “And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation [*charaktēr*] of His nature.”



Features of the *Imago Dei*

7. Realized (Perfected in Christ)

- To God – Loved God with all His heart, soul, mind, and strength
- To Fellow Man – Loved His neighbor as Himself
- To Inanimate Creation – Demonstrated righteous dominion over nature



Features of the *Imago Dei*

8. Renewed (Saved Humans)

- 2 Corinthians 3:18 – “...being transformed into the same **image** [*eikōn*], from glory to glory.”
- Colossians 3:10 – “...being renewed to a true knowledge according to the **image** [*eikōn*] of the One who created” us.



Features of the *Imago Dei*

9. Restored (Glorification)

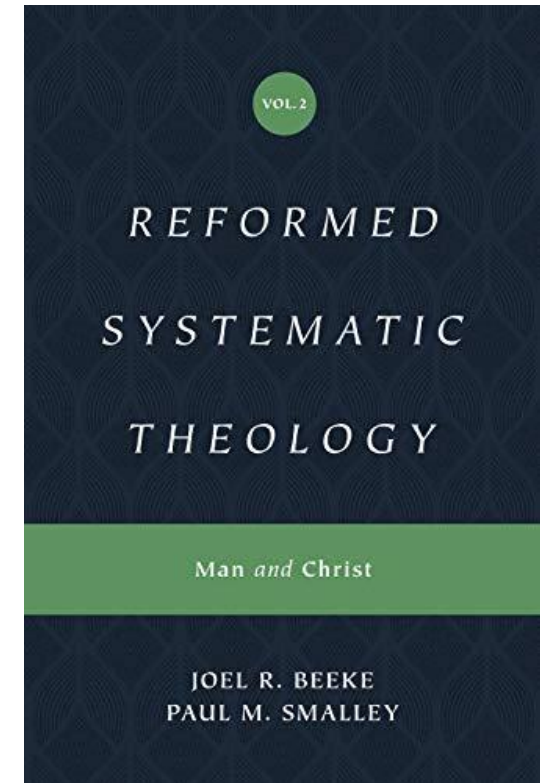
- 1 Corinthians 15:49 – “Just as we have borne the **image** of the earthy [man, Adam], we will also bear the **image** [*eikōn*] of the heavenly [man, Christ].”
- 1 John 3:2 – “We know that when He appears, we will be **like** [*homoios*] Him, because we will see Him just as He is.”



Features of the *Imago Dei*

9. Restored (Glorification)

“Just as Christ is greater than Adam, so our image bearing in Christ will be more glorious than Adam’s. ... This life not only will lift Christians above their present condition in this fallen world, but will exalt them higher than Adam ever stood in paradise, for the first man was earthly, but the second man is heavenly.”



— Beeke & Smalley, 1:173



Views on the Image of God

1. Substantive

A characteristic or quality that constitutes the **substance** of man—**what** he is.

- Walk upright
- Ability to reason
- Memory
- Make moral judgments and choices



Views on the Image of God

1. Substantive

2. Relational

3. Functional

Something humans **do**, typically exercising **dominion** over creation.



Views on the Image of God

4. Holistic

- Exclusively **relational**? What about hermits, or the mentally incapacitated?
- Exclusively **functional**? What about those who fail to adequately perform that function?



Views on the Image of God

4. Holistic

We ought not to say that the image is moral to the **exclusion** of the relational, or substantive to the **exclusion** of the functional.

Man himself **is** the image of God. His **whole nature** and his **proper activity** is integral to his identity as image-bearer.



Implications for the Image of God

1. Man's Uniqueness and Dignity

- Matthew 6:26 – “Are you not **worth much more than they?**”
- Matthew 10:29–31 – “You are **more valuable** than many sparrows.”
- Matthew 12:12 – “How much **more valuable** then is a man than a sheep!”



Implications for the Image of God

1. Man's Uniqueness and Dignity

- 1 Peter 2:17 – “Honor all people.”
- Proverbs 14:31 – “He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, But he who is gracious to the needy honors Him.”



Implications for the Image of God

1. Man's Uniqueness and Dignity

Abortion

- Proverbs 31:8–9 – “Open your mouth for the **mute**, For the rights of all the **unfortunate**. Open your mouth, judge righteously, And defend the rights of the **afflicted** and **needy**.”



Implications for the Image of God

1. Man's Uniqueness and Dignity

Abortion

- Exodus 21:22–25 – “If men struggle with each other and strike a pregnant **woman** so that **her children** come out, yet there is no **injury**, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges decide.”



Implications for the Image of God

1. Man's Uniqueness and Dignity

Abortion

- Exodus 21:22–25 – “But if there is any further **injury**, then you shall appoint as a penalty **life for life**, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.”



Implications for the Image of God

1. Man's Uniqueness and Dignity

Euthanasia

- Proverbs 6:16–17 – “There are six things which **Yahweh hates**, Yes, seven which are an **abomination** to Him ... Hands that shed innocent blood.”



Implications for the Image of God

1. Man's Uniqueness and Dignity
2. Man's Equality

Between the Sexes

- Genesis 1:27 – “God created man in His image, in the image of God He created him, **male and female** He created them.”



Implications for the Image of God

1. Man's Uniqueness and Dignity
2. Man's Equality

Between Ethnicities

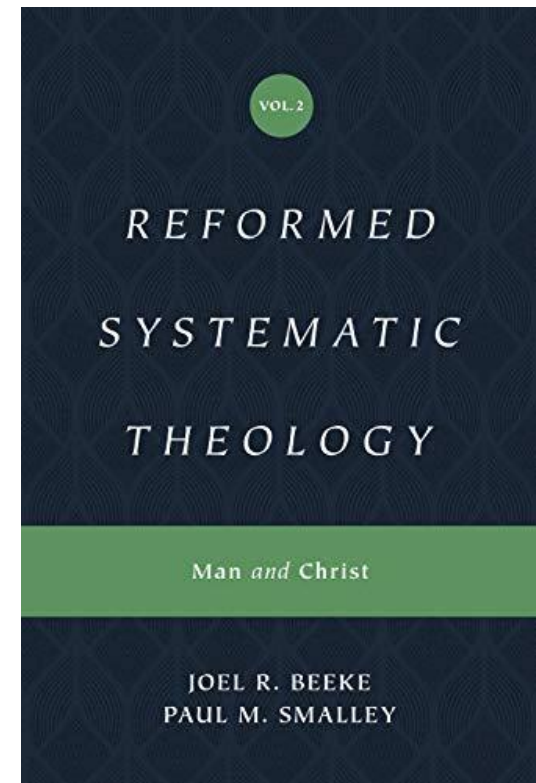
- Acts 17:26 – “God made **from one man** every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth...”



Implications for the Image of God

3. Man's Stewardship

“The right to engage in **agriculture** and **industry** arises directly from the dominion of God's image bearers over the world. When human beings breed animals, care for them in controlled environments, put them to work in service to humanity, and kill them to harvest their bodies for food, medicine, and other products, ...

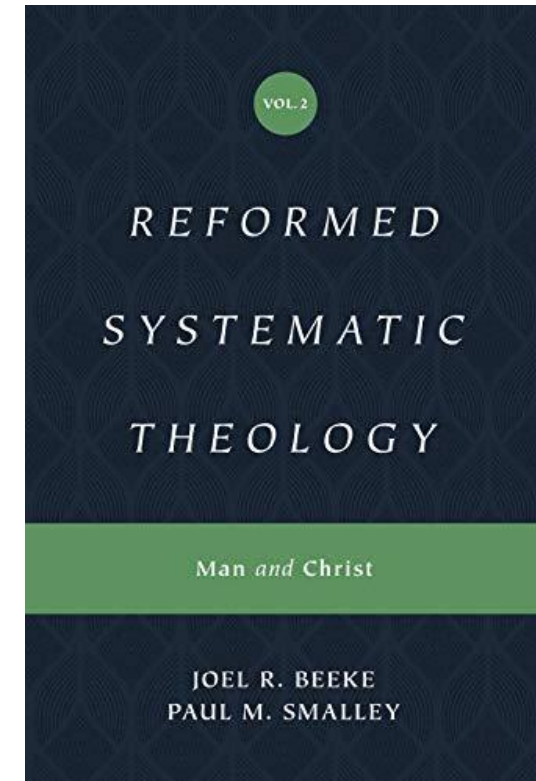


Implications for the Image of God

3. Man's Stewardship

“...they are **not transgressing** against the oneness of all life. They are **exercising God-given authority** over God's earth.”

— Beeke & Smalley, *RST*, 2:202



Implications for the Image of God

4. Man's Accountability

“Creation in the image of God means we **belong** to God. All humans cannot escape the fact that being made in the image of God means that they are all **responsible** and **accountable** to God. God is **worthy** of devotion, love, loyalty, and service.”

— Dr. Michael Vlach



Implications for the Image of God

4. Man's Accountability

“We are destroying speculations
And every lofty thing raised up
against the knowledge of God,
And **taking every thought captive**
to the **obedience** of Christ.”

— 2 Corinthians 10:5



Fallen Masterpiece

Man as the Image of God

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