

I AM MAN

REFLECTING GOD'S CHARACTER
IN A WORLD OF CHAOS

Week One: "Made In His Image"

I. Introduction

THE KEY VERSE FOR THE SERIES:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. – Genesis 1:27

In His Image

- God made man and woman in HIS _____
- 1 Corinthians 11:7 says man "is the **image** and glory of God"
- An image _____ or _____ what it pictures
- We are to reflect the image of God to the world around us
- But what happened? THE FALL
- Sin threw a monkey wrench into the whole thing
- Instead of clearly reflected His image to the world around us, we bend, twist and distort it

image – *tselem* (Hebrew) - image, likeness (resemblance), a representative figure

image – *eikon* (Greek) - the image of one; one in whom the likeness of any one is seen

OUR GOAL: To discover what it means to be a REAL man

II. Will the real men please stand up?

- What's happened to manhood?
 - What we see out there is a sad reflection on what God intended
 - Yet how many of us truly reflect God's image clearly and accurately?
 - Instead of reflecting God's image, we _____ it
 - Even as Christians, we live out a _____ view of manhood
 - ...it's more about _____ than _____
 - ...we value _____ but reject _____ (power under control)
 - ...we put more stock in _____ than _____
 - ...we fail to see the difference between _____ and _____
 - ...we pursue _____ over _____
 - ...we prefer _____ over _____
 - ...we'd rather _____ women than _____ them

A. Unmanly men

- A steady diet of the world's views on manhood has resulted in _____ men

These men are characterized as:

1. _____
 - He manipulates family and friends
 - He avoids whatever he is not sure he can handle
 - He works hard to achieve and maintain a position where he comes out on top
2. _____
 - His words and actions harm people
 - He makes those around him feel used
 - He can be indifferent and aloof
3. _____
 - He is committed more to himself than anyone else
 - He is narcissistic, with the world revolving around him

An unmanly man...

- ... FEELS _____ – So he becomes _____
- ... EXPERIENCES _____ – So he becomes _____
- ... HE LIVES WITH A SENSE OF _____ – So he becomes _____

B. A manly man...

- ... FEELS _____, not powerless
He is an _____ man, not aggressive
His calling to reflect God compels him more than his hope for power
- ... EXPERIENCES _____
He is a _____ man, not weak
He controls his power and uses it for good
- ... HE LIVES WITH A SENSE OF _____
He is a _____ man, not controlled by his addictions
He knows what he is about and what he can contribute

III. What's the point?

THE PERFECT MAN OF GOD

- To reflect God's image as a man, you must possess the character of the God-man
- To become like Him, you must get to know Him
- Authentic manhood begins with the only authentic man who ever lived: Jesus Christ

*Men who learn to be fascinated more with Christ than with themselves will become the authentic men of our day. Men of this generation must learn to count the cost of following Christ; we must feel the emptiness of our souls until no cost seems too high if it brings us into contact with him; we just resist the influence of a "Christian" culture that values self-discovery and self-fulfillment above abandoning ourselves to God. To put it simply, we must be more concerned with knowing Christ than with finding ourselves. – Larry Crabb, *The Silence of Adam**

ANSWER KEY: image, resembles, represents, distort, twisted, success, servanthood, power, meekness, intelligence, integrity, toughness, courage, honor, humility, getting, giving, enjoy, respect, inauthentic, controlling, destructive, selfish, powerless, aggressive, rage, abusive, terror, addicted, strong, active, peace, gentle, freedom, purposeful

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Week Two: "Mirror Mirror On the Wall"

In preparing for this series, it became painfully clear that there are few examples of godly men in the Scriptures. Sure, you can turn to Daniel and Joseph. Lot seemed to have his spiritual act together, in spite of a few choice words he shared with God in the midst of his pain and suffering. And some of the prophets seemed to have this godly thing down pretty well. But if you look closely at any of their lives, you will find that even they had flaws. It is part of the human condition – a direct result of the fall and the power of the flesh in our lives. The fact is, I tend to find a little bit of comfort in the lives of men like David, Peter, Thomas, Abraham and Elijah. These guys obviously loved God, but still struggled with living lives that accurately reflected God. So let's take a look at a few of these men during our study this week. See if you can relate to them like I do.

Read Genesis 2:16-18

- What did God command Adam in these verses? Write it down word-for-word:
- According to verse 18, was Eve around when this command was given?

Now read Genesis 3:1-7

- Look at this passage closely. Compare what Eve said in verses 2-3 with what God commanded Adam back in verses 17-17 in chapter 2. Write down any differences you find:
- According to verse 6, where was Adam when all this was going on?
- What do you think he should have done when he heard Eve's response to the serpent?
- How should he have responded to the serpent's lie in verse 4?
- In what ways did Adam fail to reflect God in this scenario? How did he fail Eve?

Read Genesis 12:6-20

- What does Abraham find when he arrives in Negev, according to verse 11?
- What did he do in response?

- Do you see anything wrong with what Abraham asked his wife to do when they arrived in Egypt? Explain your answer?
- In what ways did Abraham fail to reflect God in this scenario? How did he fail Sarah?

Read 1 Samuel 1:9 and 2:12-17

- 1 Samuel 1:9 tells us that Eli was a priest in the temple of the Lord. What kind of sons did Eli have according to chapter 2:12-17?
- What responsibility, if any, do you feel Eli had for the condition of his sons' hearts?

Read 1 Samuel 2:22-36

- What steps did Eli take to control or correct his sons?
- What could he have done differently in order to influence their behavior in a positive way?

Read 1 Samuel 3:11-14

- How did God respond to the behavior of these two young men?
- Who did he seem to hold responsible and why?

Read 1 Samuel 4:1-11

- What was the end result of these two young men?
- In what ways did Eli fail to reflect God in this scenario? How did he fail his two sons?

Time for Reflection:

- Why do you think we struggle as men to adequately reflect God in our lives? What makes it so difficult?
- Can you think of any man in your life who has modeled what it means to be God's image bearer? Write down some of the characteristics of their life that made this possible?
- What are some areas in your life in which you really struggle reflecting God's image? Write them down, then spend a few minutes confession them to God.