

I AM MAN

REFLECTING GOD'S CHARACTER
IN A WORLD OF CHAOS

Week Two: "Mirror, Mirror On the Wall"

*Mirror, mirror on the wall,
who in the land is fairest of all?*

I. Chips off the Old Block

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—for until the Law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. – Romans 5:12-14

- We have _____ sinned
- We inherited Adam's _____
- We sinned _____ Adam
- We sin _____ of Adam

A. Sin In Our Gene Pool

- Genesis 5 – the generations of Adam
 - Man was originally made in _____ likeness (Vs 1)
 - Mankind was _____ by God (Vs 2)
 - Something changed: The introduction of _____ (Vs 3)
 - Now Adam's offspring would bear _____ image

*The first man (Adam) is **from the earth, earthy**; the second man is **from heaven**. As is **the earthy**, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have **borne the image of the earthy**, we will also bear **the image of the heavenly**. – 1 Corinthians 15:47-49*

- We bear (literally: "wear") Adam's image
 - We are by nature like _____
 - Because Adam sinned, we are born _____
 - We inherited his _____
 - We share in his _____

B. A New And Improved Adam

- God sent Adam version 2.0

.. *Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.* – Romans 5:14

1. Adam was a _____
proto – the earliest form of something to come
 - Adam was _____
 - Adam was _____
 - Adam was a lousy _____

2. Jesus is the _____ (Romans 8:3; Philippians 2:6-7; Hebrews 2:14, 17)
arch – chief; principal; an ideal example of a type; the quintessence
 - Where Adam failed, Jesus _____
 - What Adam lacked, Jesus _____
 - What Adam passed down, Jesus _____

II. A New Standard For Manhood

- Our new standard is _____ Himself
- The _____ Adam
- He provides a new _____ for us to follow
- His _____, _____, and _____ make it possible for us to bear God's image again

*and ... put on the new man who has been **created in God's image** – in righteousness and holiness that comes from truth.* – Ephesians 4:24 (NLT)

- “According to God” – similar, like, bearing His likeness

- So be _____ of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:1-4)

mimetes – mimes, imitators

My goal is that you will learn to imitate Christ and become...

- ... a man of excellence
- ... a man of humility
- ... a man of passion
- ... a man of respect for women
- ... a man of fearlessness
- ... a man of selflessness
- ... a man of the Spirit
- ... a man of gentleness
- ... a man of integrity

ANSWER KEY: all, sin nature, in, because, God's, blessed, Adam, sinners, guilt, condemnation, prototype, disobedient, self-centered, leader, archetype, succeeded, provided, paid for, Christ, second, example, life, death, resurrection, imitators

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Week Three: "I Am A Man ... Of Excellence"

What would excellence look like in a man? How would perfection of masculinity play itself out in real life? We tend to think in terms of physique, intelligence, achievements, and attributes. In our culture six-pack abs and bulging biceps seem to be standard equipment on the "real" man. A full-head of flowing hair and a rock-solid body seem to be what the world holds up as must-have masculinity. But is that what it's all about? By now, you know the answer is, "No!" Mature masculinity is something different altogether. And rather than look anything like what you see masquerading in our culture, it resembles the only perfect man who ever lived: Jesus. This week we want to begin looking at some of the characteristics that make Jesus the icon of manliness. My hope is that your understanding of masculinity will be completely rewritten as you realize who, as a man, Jesus wants you to be. In your behaviors and priorities, in the ways you relate to people, in the motivations of your heart, and the words that come out of your mouth, in your actions and reactions, drives and ambitions – you are to be like Him.

Read Hebrews 4:15

- Jot down just a few of the sins you struggle with on a daily basis. Be honest.

- What do you think it would be like to be perfectly sinless, to never have to struggle with any of the sins you listed above?

Read Isaiah 53:2

- This is a Messianic passage. In other words, while written long before Jesus was born, these words speak of the coming Messiah, the very role Jesus came to fulfill. What do these verses predict Jesus will be like?

- How does that description differ from the images we have seen of Jesus as portrayed in paintings and on film?

- Does it seem like Jesus would have been considered excellent because of his appearance? Explain your answer.

Read Matthew 3:13-17

- Up until this point in Jesus life, what has He accomplished that is noteworthy (look back on chapters 1 and 2 of Matthew for help)?
- Yet what does God have to say about Jesus in verse 17?
- If Jesus had yet to perform a miracle or give a message, what do you think God's assessment of Jesus was based on?

Read Isaiah 53

Look at the following descriptions of Jesus found in this passage. In the space below, write down any others you find.

- He was “despised and rejected by men...” (53:3)
- He was “a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...” (53:3)
- He was “despised...” (53:3)
- He was “crushed for our iniquities...” (53:5)
- He was like “a lamb that is led to slaughter...” (53:7)
- He was “cut off from the land of the living...” (53:8)
- He “poured out Himself to death...” (53:12)

Read the following quote:

“Excellence means when a man or woman asks of himself more than others do.” – Jose Ortega y Gasset

- How do you think this definition would fit Jesus? How did He do more than what was expected of Him?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:7 and 1 Thessalonians 4:1

- What do you learn from these two passages about the pursuit of excellence?