



The Doctrine of Humanity and Sin

Mankind is unique. Among all creation, we are the only ones made in image of God.

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them... Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person. Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7 NLT

- All human beings bear the image of God.
- This means that every human being has great potential, worth and value.
- God is the One who has the authority to say that every person has value and worth.

What does it mean that we are created in the image of God?

- We are creative because God is creative.
- We are spiritual because God is Spirit.
- We communicate because God communicates.
- We are intelligent because God is intelligent.
- We are relational because God is relational.
- We are morally responsible because God is moral being.

Every human has intrinsic beauty because created in the image of God, but...

Well then, should we conclude that we Jews are better than others? No, not at all, for we have already shown that all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin. As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous, not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one." "Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave. Their tongues are filled with lies." "Snake venom drips from their lips." "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." "They rush to commit murder. Destruction and misery always follow them. They don't know where to find peace." "They have no fear of God at all." ... For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.
Romans 3:9-18, 23 NLT

- Who is this text describing? You, me. Every human. Pretty stark description. Our sin separates us from God... and there is nothing we can do about it.
- We are beautiful, but we are also a mess – in a disordered and bent condition. On our own, we are helpless and hopeless.
- We are all broken; our brokenness comes in different sizes, colors, and shapes.
- *But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*
Romans 5:8 NLT

What does this doctrine mean for us?

- We need to get serious about accurately reflecting God's image. When friends look at our lives or listen to us, are they seeing and hearing God's love, truth, holiness?
- This doctrine should dramatically impact how we think, talk to, talk about, and treat everyone we come in contact with – no matter who they are or how different they may be than us.
- You have never laid eyes on another human being who is not created in God's image, and for that reason, and that reason alone, worthy of being treated with love, dignity, respect.