

“I Am More Than My Image”

WHO AM I? FINDING IDENTITY IN CHRIST | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON | APRIL 20/21, 2018
GENESIS 1:27; 3:1-7; EXODUS 20:3-5; COLOSSIANS 1:15; ROMANS 8:29; 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Is Image Everything?

Our obsession with image

Our creation as image [Genesis 1:27]

Coming to Grips with Our Image Problems

The Satanic inversion of our image without God [Genesis 3:1-7]

Our tendency toward making idolatrous images [Exodus 20:3-5]

Living into a Better Image

Jesus the image of God [Colossians 1:15]

God’s work of image renewal in Christ [Romans 8:29]

Giving ourselves into the transforming hands of God [2 Corinthians 3:18]

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Answer one of these two questions:
 - Who was one of your childhood ‘idols’ and why?
 - Have you ever had an image problem? What happened?
2. We continue our new series “Who Am I?” by looking at the topic of our image. Ask God to speak to you through His Word, and then begin the study.
3. Read Genesis 1:27 and 3:1-7 aloud, and then reflect on these two questions:
 - What do you think it means that we are made in the image of God?
 - How did the serpent challenge God’s identity and calling for humanity in Genesis 3?
4. Because of the Fall into sin and evil in Genesis 3, humanity’s propensity is to turn toward self and away from God. Read Exodus 20:3-5 and Psalm 106:20. What do these two passages tell us both about idolatry and our tendency to look toward ourselves, others and things instead of God?
5. Colossians 1:15-20 describes Jesus in powerful terms. What do you notice about who Jesus is and what Jesus does in this passage?
6. How do you think Jesus’ identity and work might relate to our image problems?
7. Now read Romans 8:29, 1 Corinthians 15:49, and 2 Corinthians 3:18 aloud, and answer the following two questions:
 - What do these verses tell us about God’s work in Jesus and His work in us?
 - Which of these three verses catches your attention most and why?
8. What is one thing God is speaking to you through this study? If you are on your own, write it down and pray about it. If you are in a small group, take time to discuss this with one another before praying together.

TAKE IT FURTHER:

Dig deeper on the themes from today with further Bible study or reading. You could join with our daily reading plan that accompanies the “Who Am I?” series:

- Monday, 4/23: Genesis 1:27; 3:1-7
- Tuesday, 4/24: Exodus 20:3-5; Psalm 106:20
- Wednesday, 4/25: Matthew 4:1-11
- Thursday, 4/26: Colossians 1:15-20
- Friday, 4/27: Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 15:49
- Saturday, 4/28: 2 Corinthians 3:18

Study further on the topic of image by reading *Counterfeit Gods* by Timothy Keller or *The Gift of Being Yourself* by David Benner.