

## What's the difference between image and likeness?

"Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness. Genesis 1:26

"Image" – is our capacity to be godlike.

"Likeness"- is actually being godlike.

Apostle Paul shows us the plan of God to counteract the fall of man.

Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. <sup>10</sup> Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. Colossians 3:9,10

There is the likeness of God, being restored in us.

"God is Spirit, and they that worship him must worship in spirit [in the image of God] and in truth" [in the likeness of God] John 4:24

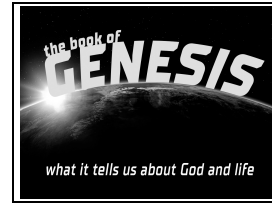
Remember where Paul says. Our faces, then, are not covered. We all show the Lord's glory, and we are being changed to be like him. This change in us brings ever greater glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18

For he knew all about us before we were born and he destined us from the beginning to share the likeness of his Son. Romans 8:29

### Community Group Questions:

1. In your own words explain God's image, your spirit, your soul, and your heart.
2. How can you today begin to align your soul's desires with God's Spirit? Who will you ask to be your accountability partner?

Sierra Community Church June 13th, 2021 Part 2- Dan Wilvers



## Who Am I? Genesis 1:26,27

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

The key words are, "*image*" and "*likeness*" of God.  
This is never said of any other creature.

### What is the image?

"God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth,"

John 4:24

"a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see me have," Luke 24:39

A spirit can exist without a body, because God is Spirit.  
Yet Jesus rose bodily not just as a spirit being.

### Where do we get our spirit from?

Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the *breath of life*, and the man became a living being. Genesis 2:7

*breath of life*- comes from the Hebrew word *neshamah*; later translated as The human spirit (*neshamah*) is the lamp of the Lord that sheds light on one's inmost being. Proverbs 20:27

## What is the soul and how is it different from our spirit?

Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your *whole spirit and soul and body* be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Human beings are composed of 3-parts—spirit, soul, and body.

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. Hebrews 4:12

Our **soul and our spirit** can be divided by the Word of God, showing that they're also **distinct from each other**.

"God is Spirit, and those who worship him **must worship** in spirit and truth,"  
John 4:24

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot be in God's kingdom." ... "I tell you the truth, **unless you are born from water and the Spirit**, you cannot enter God's kingdom. <sup>6</sup> Human life comes from human parents, but spiritual life comes from the Spirit. John 3:3,5,6

Being made **in the image of God means we have a spirit** and so our spirit has the ability to connect to God's spirit.

**Our soul** then defines who we are, by personality being composed of our **mind, emotions and our will**.

We connect to God through **our spirit**; and then in **our souls** we have the capacity to bring honor to God.

Mary's song: "My soul magnifies the Lord <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
Luke 1:46,47

To *magnify* means to enlarge, or express, something hidden for all to see. Mary's **spirit** rejoices in God; then her **soul** enlarges God place in her life through her will, mind and emotions.

## Why is it important to know the difference?

God wants us to live and act not by our soul's desires, but by His spirit working through our spirits.

For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:13

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16

**Here's the problem:** From the time we were born, we've lived by our soul's desires (mind, emotions, will) not by God's spirit.

Created to be "God's glory" we became "God's shame."  
... every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. <sup>6</sup>The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. Genesis 6:5,6

## How can we tell if we're living by God's Spirit?

By getting regularly in touch with God's WORD.

God's word is alive and working and is sharper than a double-edged sword. It cuts all the way into us, where the soul and the spirit are joined, to the center of our joints and bones. And it judges the thoughts and feelings in our hearts. Hebrews 4:12

By coming to Christ you are saved. Remember Romans 10:9,10? God's spirit resides in you now, and He will talk to you about your motives, what your thinking, why you're feeling as you do. If you listen to Him you will grow like Him. It's that simple.

You're on a journey filled with my traps and snares, but God will not abandon you, His spirit in you is always there to be tapped into

When we discover we're living in and by our flesh, we simply need to turn to the Lord in our spirit again. We can say, "*Lord, I want to live by You not by me.*" Then obey Him.