

Created in the Image of God

*So God created mankind in his own image, in the image
of God he created them; male and female he created them.
(Genesis 1:27)*

† Eternal Walk
≡ MINISTRY

Created in the Image of God

March 2020



**Printed by:
Minuteman Press,
917-A West 7th St.
Frederick, Md. 21701
frederick@minutemanpress.com
www.frederick.minutemanpress.com**

**All scripture quotations are taken from Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.**

Created in the Image of God

Introduction

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27) The fact that we are created in the image of God is very significant in knowing how to live life to the fullest, and the assurance of eternal life in Heaven with the Father and the Son. We will discuss the ways we are created in God's image, how God molds us to his image, and living in God's image.

When we buy something mechanical or electrical, it always works best when operated in accordance to how it was designed, and it is the same with us because we are designed by God. Many people in the world are not living the way God created them, but living the way Satan wants them to live. God changes us from living the ways of Satan to the way God created us to live.

God Changes Us

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2) Our brains have a feature called neuroplasticity, which enables our brains to be rewired, changing neural connection based on changing our thoughts, thus making us our own brain surgeons. We can do this because our thoughts are spiritual coming from our spiritual soul. Our brains are physical, and are connected to our thoughts by quantum physics. Our thoughts normally reflect what is stored in our brains, but with the indwelling Holy Spirit that connects us to Christ, we have the power to guide our thoughts through the Spirit, thereby reprogramming our brains. This process starts and continues throughout our life. *Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.* (1 Corinthians 2:16)

Our minds renew because we have changed our thinking, and we bring the good news of Christ to others, reflecting God's love to others, our hearts begins to change from self-centered, to God and others centered. God changes us throughout our life making us more Christ-like. *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,*(Romans 8:29) All who accept Christ are predestined to conform to the image of his Son.

As we walk with the Lord, guided by the Holy Spirit, life continually gets better as our mind and heart change to be more Christ-like. We are now living the way God created us to live and we are living life to the full. Walking with our Lord gives us a life that continually improves; more love, peace, joy, faith, Godly wisdom, courage, security, and confidence in Christ, while fear, worry, anger, unforgiveness, all from Satan begins to disappear. *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear,* (1 John 4:18) Fear from Satan is cast out by the love in

hearts from God. Satan's fear and God's love cannot coexist.

The Image of God

We will identify the ways we are created in the image of God, and if we live the way we are created we live life to the full. *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.* (John 10:10) Now that our minds and hearts are being renewed, the image of God is now being revealed in us.

Created for Mind of Love and Hope

God is love and we are created to have a heart filled with God's love. *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* (1 John 4:7). When our minds and hearts are filled with God's love, the Bible is no longer a rule book for us because it now describes our Christ-like personality, and the Lord's commands are

natural to us. Love is the foundation of the Christian life and the more love we have in our hearts the closer we are to the Lord.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13) With our hearts filled with love we have faith in the Lord and we have hope. We have the certainty of hope in Christ, for this life and for our eternal home.

Science has proven that with our minds filled with God's love, we are healthier in both mind and body. The following quote is from the book, "The God Shaped Brain," by Timothy Jennings, M.D., pg 27. "...love increase when we worship a God of love, sharp thinking and memory improve as well. In other words, worshipping a God of love actually stimulates the brain to heal and grow."

Created for a Serving Heart

If you love me, keep my commands. (John 14:15) Love changes our hearts and motivates us to minister to lost souls. We now love people as the

Lord loves people and we live to reflect his love to others. *You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.* (Matthew 5:14-16. God designed us for this purpose, and it is the most fulfilling work we can do. It becomes more and more fulfilling as God continually molds us to become Christ-like.

Created to Worship the True God

If Christ is to be the Lord of our life and if we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; then it is reasonable that God would create us with the desire to worship him. Since God created the need to worship, it becomes natural and fulfilling to worship God.

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. (Psalm 103:1) God is

sovereign over all creation and we were created to worship God. The reason is that what we tend to become like what we worship, and we are created to be Christ-like.

Everyone chooses to worship, but it's important what or who we worship. We may choose to worship money and things, our own body and beauty, sex, power, our intelligence, our hobby, or work. Whatever takes priority in our mind and life, will usually become our God. This is because we are created to worship and everyone worships something. *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* (Matthew 6:21)

In their book *God Attachment*, Dr. Tim Clinton and Dr. Joshua Straub, pg 16, said, "Empirical evidence is now showing that we are born with a desire for a relationship with a 'Transcendent Other' and that longing begins to reveal itself in children as young as three years of age."

Created for Relationships

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” (Genesis 2:18) God made all the animals but he couldn’t find a suitable companion for Adam, Then *the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*(Genesis 2:22) Adam had a companion created from his own rib, and love was now present between Adam and Eve, and unconditional love within the family so all people can experience God’s love. From the unconditional love shown to us by Jesus going to the cross for our sins, our love for God emerges in our hearts and love grows as we study the Word and serve the Lord. The more we reflect God’s love to others the more our love grows, bringing us closer to the Lord.

Created with Eternity in Our Hearts

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from

beginning to end. (Ecclesiastes 3:11) This scripture says we were created with eternity in our hearts, which means we were created to be with the Lord in Heaven so we can truly know God. *For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.* (1 Corinthians 13:12) The mature Christian seeks to be closer to the Lord in this life, and has the desire of being with the Lord forever in Heaven.

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (John 17:13) Seeking to be closer to the Lord gives a great desire to be *face to face* with the Father and the Son in Heaven, and this desire becomes a powerful driving force to walk according to his good, pleasing, and perfect will.

Created to Have the Mind of Christ

We are created in the image of God and we are created to have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). If we are to have the mind of Christ, then

we must change our thinking. God renews our minds and science reveals that our brain can rewire itself, removing toxic thoughts and replacing it with Godly thoughts by the way we think.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

(Romans 12:2) God gave us the extraordinary ability to renew our mind by controlling what we think about. This means that whatever we think about the most gets wired in our brain the most. The more we think about something, the more real estate it takes in our brain, and conversely, the less we think about something, the less real-estate it takes in our brain.

Old toxic thoughts can be removed from our brains and new godly thoughts wired into our brains. The longer we walk with the Lord, the more our old sinful patterns of life diminish, having less real-estate in our brains. What a blessing it is to be our own brain surgeons by changing our thinking and receiving God's peace and joy. God and his perfect love created

us so he can renew our minds to the mind of Christ.

Living in the Image of God

Satan's goal is to keep us from living in the image of God. He seeks to keep us from worship because he wants us live without Christian friends, makes us self-centered killing love and serving ourselves, living for our flesh and killing our thoughts about eternity, and wires our minds to the ways of the world. Basically Satan is trying to make us our on gods and a slave to the world.

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. (Matthew 7:13-14) Those who search and find the Narrow road to eternal life are guided because at the end of the narrow road is the Light of God. *Who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light,*

whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:16) This Light is unapproachable, but it lights our direction to Heaven, and when we step into Heaven the Light is now approachable. Those on the Wide road of destruction are living in the dark and cannot see where they are going, and they eventually die and step into eternal darkness. This is Satan's goal, to take you away from God and make you a slave for all eternity.

Summary

Realize you are created in the image of God and that Satan has molded all of us toward his image. But whoever we are in life, when we except Christ as his Savior and when we receive the Holy Spirit, God will restore us to the person he created us to be; his image.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1) Christ will take away our slavery to the

world and make us free. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:36) There is no freedom on earth like the freedom that comes from Christ, and freedom in Christ requires we live in the image of God.

