

Imago Dei Study

Precept® Discovery Study

First things first...

God created man to bear His image, to represent Him to the world, but man's sin marred the image he bore. So God sent the perfect image bearer into the world, His Son, Jesus, who showed us how to reflect God's image to the world after He returned to the Father.

OBSERVE

- 1** In Genesis 1:26-27, underline what relationship man has to God.
- 2** In Colossians 1:15, underline Jesus' relationship to God.
- 3** Number in Colossians 3:5, 8-10 the things we are to put to death or put away as our new self is being renewed in knowledge after the image of our Creator.

APPLY

- 4** What characteristics of bearing God's image do you see in Genesis 1:26-27? What practical expression can you give to these?
- 5** What effect does knowing Jesus is the image of the invisible God have on you bearing God's image? Think of one concrete step you can take to live according to this truth.

- 6** Review the things you numbered in Colossians 3. Measure your conduct, your life by these things. Which ones are you struggling with? Seek the Lord's help as you align your life with His image.

- 7** What do you think "have put on the new self" means?

WRAP IT UP:

Our model for bearing God's image is found in His Son, who according to Hebrews 1:3 is "the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature."

Through New Testament letters, we find what it means to be holy, according to 1 Peter 1:15-16: "but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"

What an example to follow! May the Spirit guide you as you seek to be holy even as He is holy. "Be imitators of me [Paul], as I am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Genesis 1:26-27 ESV

- 26** Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
- 27** So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Colossians 1:15; 3:5; 3:8-10 ESV

- 1:5** He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation
- 3:5** Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
- 3:8** But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.
- 3:9** Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices
- 3:10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

To discover more about the Precept® Bible Study Method, sign up for a training workshop! The Essentials of the Precept Bible Study Method class is the perfect place to begin—learn more at training.precept.org/!

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