

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 1:26-27, “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

INTRODUCTION:

How are human beings created in the image of God? Unlike other living things, and like God, human beings:

1. **Are self-aware.** Compare what happened subsequent to God’s creation of a full-grown cow to what happened subsequent to God’s creation of a full-grown man and the who, where, how, why, what, etc.
2. **Have imagination.** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:6.
3. **Have independent will.** Genesis 3:12-13, 16-19.
4. **Have a conscious.** Genesis 3:5, 7-11, 22A.
5. **Have rule over other living things.** Genesis 1:26-28.
6. **Have immortal souls.** Unlike God we haven’t always been, but like God we will always be.

APPLICATIONS:

1. **We were created.** We did not evolve. We are not here by accident. We are here for a purpose. Acts 17:24-28A.
2. **We aren’t God.** There are just as many ways we were not created in the image of God. We must never presume the prerogatives of God that are God’s and God’s alone. Romans 1:21-23, 25.
3. **We must honor the sanctity of human life.** Genesis 9:5-6.
4. **We must respect authority.** 1 Corinthians 11:3, 7-11A.
5. **We can change.**
 - A. My dog Fred is hyper when people first come into our house. Fred can’t think of himself in the third person and decide to change. We can. Genesis 4:3-7.
 - B. To use a computer metaphor, even the most intelligent animals “are programmed by instinct and/or training. They can be trained to be responsible, but they can’t take responsibility for that training; in other words, they can’t direct it. They can’t change the programming. They’re not even aware of it. But because of our unique human endowments, we can write new programs for ourselves totally apart from our instincts and training. This is why an animal’s capacity is relatively limited and man’s is unlimited. But if we live like animals, out of our own instincts and conditions ... we too will be limited ... Our unique human endowments lift us above the animal world. The extent to which we exercise and develop these endowments empowers us to fulfill our uniquely human potential. Between stimulus and response is our greatest power – the freedom to choose” (Covey).
 - C. Yes, we are influenced by genetics, upbringing, and environment, but these things do not dictate our behavior. While politically incorrect, let’s just say it: addiction is a moral weakness, not a disease. AA proves that people can choose to change.
 - D. Humbling? Yes. Liberating? Yes, yes, yes! SO, LET’S QUIT MAKING EXCUSES, BE HONEST ABOUT OURSELVES, AND START MAKING CHANGES! We all have ample work to do. We need to do it and other people – especially those we say we love the most – need to see us doing it!
6. **Since we are response-able, we’ll be held responsible.** Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

CONCLUSION:

In some ways, God created us in His image. But, there is a way God is still trying to create us in His image. Colossians 3:9B-10. Frankly, the former is really all about the latter. So, let us use the other ways God has created us in His image and allow God to create us in the image of His character and be blessed and a blessing both now and forever.