in his image

Big Idea Pastor Steve – Part 1

85% of people struggle with low self-worth and feel they are not good enough, unlovable, awkward, or incomplete. Pastor Steve launched our new message series called **Imago Dei** which means the Image of God. In the beginning God said, "Let us make mankind in our image" and "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good." Genesis 1:26,31 Our self-image forms a foundational truth that impacts all of our life. God made us "and it was very good", but we have an image crisis because we have believed the lies of the enemy, Satan, who wants us to reimage ourselves apart from God.

Pastor Steve gave us three areas in our lives where Imago Dei (Image of God) impacts us. **1- Our relationship with God**. How? He is seeking us, and we can seek Him. This is unique to us as humans. Jesus came to seek and save us! God longs to spend time with you! **2- Our relationship with Humanity**. How? Human life is elevated above other created life. We may not like what we see when we look in a mirror, but God sees immense worth in you, and in all human lives! **3- Our relationship with Creation**. How? Humanity is responsible for managing the rest of creation.

Having a relationship with Jesus Christ, puts us in right standing with God so we can properly reflect the image of God. It allows us to think, feel, live in such a way that gives glory to God. Some of us have been fighting against that and allowed our proximity to the world to cloud our image of God. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him...Christ is all that matters, and He lives in all of us. Colossians 3:10,11

Discussion Questions

- 85% of people struggle with self-worth, low self-esteem, feel they are not good enough, unlovable, awkward, incomplete. Would you agree? Why or why not?
- Genesis teaches that human beings are the only creatures made in God's image. Try to list as
 many things as you can that make human beings different from the rest of creation. Which of these
 differences do you believe are most relevant to us being made in God's image?
- Just as a painting made by Rembrandt has great value, you as God's creation have great value!
 See John 3:14-16, Romans 5:8 How can I get better at reflecting God's image in and through your life? See Colossians 3:10-11

Prayer Focus

Jesus, Thank You for bridging the great distance between God and us and for Your interest in a relationship with us. Thank You for making us in Your image. Help us not to care about what other people think, but to only care about knowing You so You can heal our broken relationship. Help us to live our lives how You intended them to be lived, as Your creation.

Next Steps

List out 2-3 places that God has placed you where you can reflect His image. Spend some time praying for those places and how God is using you there to show His glory to the world.

Leader Tip

What are some Imago Dei actions you and your group could recognize and live out with each other and in the community? How could that change the Group experience with each other during this semester and with God?