



imago dei



Big Idea

Pastor Curt – Part 4

Today we finish up our series Imago Dei and part two of last weeks sermon. God's plan was for people to be His image bearers but our sin ruined that plan resulting in chaos in people's lives. Knowing this, God also made a way to bring us back to Him through Jesus Christ. Our job as Christ followers is to reflect the image of God, to be His image bearer; and that reflection should have an impact on all our relationships – God, mankind, and creation. Last week we looked at what our culture says: We were accidentally mass-produced as people by chance for/from sex, popularity, and success, to bear our image and glorify ourselves through worship. However, God says that we were uniquely and intentionally created as man and woman by God for/from love, community, and purpose, to bear His image and glorify Him through worship. All our attempts to find fulfillment and purpose in life apart from God are empty. In our efforts to fix this we find ourselves starving for GOD and settling for AUTONOMY; starving for LOVE and settling for SEX; starving for COMMUNITY and settling for INDEPENDENCE; starving for PURPOSE and settling for SUCCESS; starving for GLORY and settled for FAME; and starving for WORSHIP and settling for SELF-OBESESSION. Settling for these lesser things reveal that in our brokenness, we tend to focus our lives on our own ways rather than God's way.

As Christ followers, we can be God's image bearers and glory spreaders by remembering to BE COMPASSIONATE to others because they have NOT DISCOVERED OR FORGOTTEN who they are, by remembering we have already WON (with Jesus), by remembering that someday we will feel the fullness of TRUE IDENTITY again. So, remember, you can be God's IMAGE BEARER and GLORY SPREADER.

Discussion Questions

- What are some of the biggest influences of identity nowadays? Explain. If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be and why? Do you think God would want to change anything about you? Why or why not?
- How would your life be different if you were completely confident about who you are in Christ? Is it possible to gain deeper revelation of God's love? How?
- Pastor Curt mentioned three ways we could be daily image bearers and glory spreaders. What are they? What can we do them in our lives each day?

Prayer Focus

Jesus, please help us to lay aside incorrect perceptions and beliefs about ourselves and others, give us a renewed understanding of God's great love for us and a growing revelation of who we are in Christ.

Next Steps

This week, Have an intentional conversation about the Group's Next Steps. Help each person or couple in the group to identify how they will spend the coming weeks of sabbath. Challenge the group to multiply and start another group during the summer or fall semester.

Leader Tip

Think about something that God has revealed to you about who you really are, as opposed to how you used to see yourself. Be prepared to share it with the group to help open up the conversation.