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Made in God’s Image:

# A Disciples’ Mandate

(Gen. 1:26-28)

*“Whose image is this”* (Mark 12:16-17; Jesus)

**What does it mean to be made in God’s image? –** *How God chose to expand the impact of His glory.*

 *Tselem🡪*

Intentional design*—Let* ***us*** *make man…male* ***and*** *female in our* ***image****…****created*** *X 3*

 - distinction between man and animals but not between man and woman

 - likeness is not physical

 - we are not to make images of God because He has already made images of Himself

 - the thing the Serpent offered was what Adam and Eve already had. They gained moral independence and lost their own souls (Gen. 3:5).

 - image of God is preserved in all mankind (Gen. 9:6; Jas. 3:9)

**How does being made in God’s image shape a disciple?**

**Note:** *Imago Dei, does not take shape through relationships (experience), nor does it morph with the shifting cultures of time (function); designed in God’s image precedes everything including either experience or function*.

* The **Divine** mandate—God as **righteous**

##  The capacity to be and act **like God**—Christ is the exact image of God (Col. 1:15)

 Language, creativity, holiness, immortality, love, self-awareness, mercy, grace, justice, morality

 What was marred by sin is renewed/restored in Christ (2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10)

* The **Discipleship** mandate—God as **disciple-maker**

 *To make generations of people into what they are…in God’s image*

 **FILL**- Disciple-making is the original design and purpose of humans—whether through marriage or community. Fellowship proceeds to fruitfulness.

* The **Dominion** mandate—God as **sovereign** over creation

 *To steward the creation under the rule and reign of God…in submission to her King*

 **Rule over** – bring under control

 **Subdue** – domesticate, harness, utilize

The purpose of making beings in the image of God is to steward and expand the reach of God’s glory.