

WEEK 2 - THE IMAGE OF GOD DISFIGURED AND RESTORED

OVERVIEW

The world is a mess. Hate, violence, greed, lust, despair… A fair question to ask in light of the deep brokenness of the world around us is this: If we were all made in the image of God, why do most people look like anything but? In this sermon we will explore how sin and human rebellion has warped and disfigured God's image in us by twisting us inward on ourselves, causing us to not only fail to uphold our created purpose, but to hate and demean other image-bearers. It's a grim situation, but there is no need to worry. In fact, there is very good news to celebrate! The image of God can be *restored* in us through Christ, and if we surrender our lives to him, our transformation in the Spirit can allow us to radiate God's glory and purpose once more. This restoration of God's image in us can bring life not just to our lives, but to our broken world as well.

If through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.
For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
Romans 8:13-14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What comes to mind when you think of something being disfigured?
2. If we are all made in the image of God, then why do we so often look nothing like him?
   a. Read Romans 3:23. What is sin?
   b. How has sin affected God's image in us?
3. How can we restore God's image in us? (Read Romans 3:24, Colossians 1:15, 2 Corinthians 5:21.)
4. Read Romans 8:1-2, 12-17. How would you describe the "new normal" way of living that is possible when we surrender our lives to Christ?
5. Read Romans 12:2. What would it look like to "let God transform you"?
6. What does someone made in the image of God look like? How does a true *tzelem* of God behave?
7. Where is God inviting you to be restored?
8. What's one area you can focus on this week to become just a little more like the image of God you were created to be?