

from dust, life

The Meaning of Our Image

What is the purpose of a stuffed animal? Of course it brings happiness and joy to children, but it also stands as a representation of something else. For example, a stuffed dinosaur gives a child a good picture of a creature that cannot be seen or observed. Although it does resemble a real creature, it is limited in ways the real thing was not. It cannot move and eat and breathe like an actual dinosaur.

Now let's say the stuffed dinosaur begins to unravel and fall apart, and begins to look much more like a roll of thread and cotton than what he was supposed to. He cannot repair his image. Only the one who made him can fix him.

In the same way, God created us according to *His* image, and in *His* likeness. Think of like a graven image, or a **statue** – it's the same word. Not that we're idols, but it's as if we're statues in a way, who resemble our Creator. However, just like a statue, we're limited in ways God is not. **What we can do on a finite level represents what God can do on an infinite level.** And when our lives begin to unravel and fall apart, *when we've lost that holy image*, we must look to our Maker to be repaired.

Who Told the Lie?

In the beginning Adam fell, and died. God told him not to eat the fruit from the forbidden tree, but against his better nature (which God had bestowed in him) decided to give it a whirl anyhow. God told him it would not be good "for in the **day** that you eat of it, **you shall surely die.**" The serpent, who was deceitful, told the woman "**you will not surely die.**" And we all know, as the story goes, that as soon as Eve ate the fruit, she fell over dead, right? Well, at least after she had given it to Adam anyways. *And* after God had come to check on them... And then possibly it took a full twenty-four hours to take effect... *No*, they lived on for a very long time before they passed away. But didn't God tell them that they would **surely die** in the **day** they eat of it? ***Who told the lie?***

They did die, that day, a spiritual death. They were cast out of the Garden and *separated* from God, because **sin is death**. It has only **ever** brought death and destruction. When we sin, we die. Oh, we may not cease breathing; however we too die a spiritual death. We take on a new image; we make for ourselves an image *contrary* to our purpose. We become the living dead.

Revelation 3:1 – These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "*I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, **but you are dead.***"

We all die. But God has a plan for us. He sent His only Son to provide a *way* for us to regain our lost image, and to be saved from this false reality **we make** for ourselves, when **we tell the lie**. *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.* (**1 Corinthians 15:22**)

Image Bearers

1 Corinthians 15:45-49 – And so it is written, “*The first man Adam became a living being.*” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

God has the power to create life from dust, from *nothing*. He takes something that is dead, non-living matter like ourselves, and makes a beautiful new creation. And *we must die*, to ourselves, that we may be alive with Christ. We must put off that old man that has grown corrupt and “*put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*” (**Ephesians 4:24**)

2 Corinthians 3:18 – But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

On the Mountain of God, when Moses spoke with God and beheld His glory, he had to veil his face. When he had returned to the foot of the mountains his face was glowing supernaturally because of it. Yet now, the veil has been taken away, and we can see the glory of God. We can even see it in our own reflection, as **representatives** of God. We can see a power at work in us that is great, and it is *this* power that transforms us into the proper image of God, as we were created to be.

Therefore He says,
“*Awake, you who sleep,
Arise from the dead,
And Christ will give you light.*” (**Ephesians 5:14**)