

One of the frustrating things about watching the news is seeing the myriad ways that humanity has lost its belief that ALL people bear the “[image of God](#).” Politics overshadows the sanctity of human life and instead of seeing one another (Christians and non-Christians alike) as divine image bearers, we are tempted to vilify each other based on our stances on abortion; the war in Gaza; the war in Ukraine; Black Lives Matter, and the upcoming presidential election, to name a few.

However, without a theology rooted in the image of God in ALL people—God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness” ([Genesis 1:26](#))—humans do hideous things with or without awareness that their actions are evil. Consider lynching in America; Rich Villodas writes about it in his second book, [Good and Beautiful and Kind](#):

“James Cone, in his book *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, noted that ‘in its heyday, the lynching of black Americans was no secret. It was a public spectacle, often announced in advance in newspapers and over radios, attracting crowds of up to twenty thousand people.’[2] Lynchings would make their way onto postcards that were then mailed to friends across the nation with smiling faces in the foreground of the card and hanging bodies in the background....When I think of this level of brutality and dehumanization mixed with a bewildering spirit of joyful celebration, I can arrive at only one conclusion: There’s something else going on. Something sinister beyond what we can see (p. 24, Kindle Edition).”

Part of the sinister plan of Satan is to get us to live turned/curved in on ourselves instead of living in the image of God; we look to, rely on, and trust in ourselves instead of the one whose image we are made in. Image bearing doesn’t mean that we ourselves are God. Instead, “the significance of humans being created ‘in the image of God’ is our responsibility to recognize and understand rationality and ability to create abstract conceptions from the natural world. This gives us the capacity to create a glorious peaceful world or a fallen chaotic environment, depending upon our motives and understanding. Just as [Satan](#) fell from God, we are capable of falling from God and suffering the consequences. We must realize our dual potential (good vs evil) and act in accordance with God’s will and law to

create prosperous and benevolent communities and nations (see “[What Does 'Imago Dei' Mean? The Image of God in the Bible.](#)”

The Temple Takeaway:

As you grow in your grasp of the implication of all of humanity being made in the image of God, it will change the way you see, treat, and speak to people. Equally important, it will change the way you see, treat, and speak to yourself. Gary Smalley is quoted as saying, “Life is relationships; the rest is just details.” Your life is a reminder that there is a “creator God” who made you, loves you, gave you His image, and wants to have a personal relationship with you through His Son [Jesus Christ](#). “The rest is just details!”