

# Theology Uncorked

## What We Believe and Why It Matters

### What We Believe about Humanity

#### 1. Humanity as Created

##### A. We are Created

###### *What is the chief end of man?*

Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever. (WSC Q.1)

##### B. We are Created in God's Image (*Imago Dei*)

###### *How did God create man?*

God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures. (WSC Q. 10)

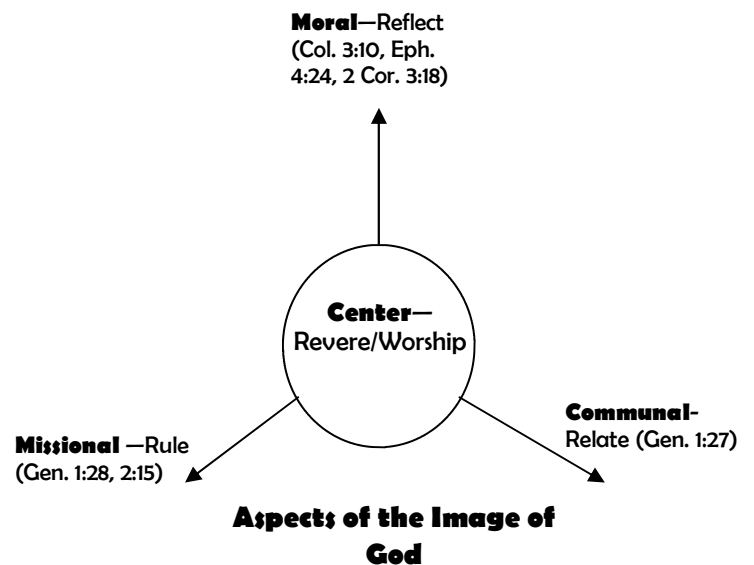
"Every person, therefore, on coming to the knowledge of himself, is not only urged to seek God, but is also led as by the hand to find him."—John Cal-

###### *What difference does it make?*

Morality, Purpose, Longings

#### Psalm 8

Psalm 8:1 . O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens! <sup>4</sup> What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? <sup>5</sup> Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! <sup>6</sup> You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,



#### 2. Humanity as Fallen

##### A. Corruption of the Image (not loss)

##### B. Freedom & Responsibility

1. Created - *Posse Peccare* – Possibility of sinning
2. Fallen - *Non posse non peccare* – Not possible not to sin
3. Redeemed - *Posse non peccare* – Possible not to sin
4. ReCreated - *Non posse peccare* – Not possible to sin

##### C. Sin & Evil

-SIN: Inherited Guilt and Corruption

- Why did God create a world where sin/evil were allowed?
- How could Adam and Eve, who were created good, desire to sin and commit sin?
- Why does a good and righteous God allow evil?

"...we must look upon every person, whoever he or she may be, of whatever nationality or race, of whatever social or economic status, whether Christian or non-Christian, as a person made in the image of God. This is what is unique about human being; this is what gives them dignity and worth. Even a person who is living a disreputable life, who has become an outcast from society, who has not a friend in the world—even such a person still bears God's image, and that image we must honor." Anthony Hoekema

### 3. Redeemed-Image Renewed

#### A. Jesus is the Second Adam, The True Image of God

##### Scriptural Support

Colossians 1:15 <sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.  
2 Corinthians 4:4 <sup>4</sup> in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.  
Romans 5:19 <sup>19</sup> For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

"In Christ, *Imago Dei* comes home" - Harold Best

#### B. Christian Growth (Sanctification) must be seen in light of our original design as the Image of God

##### *What is sanctification?*

Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness. (WSC, Q.35)

##### Scriptural Support

Ephesians 4:22-24 <sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.  
Colossians 3:9-10 <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.  
2 Corinthians 3:18 <sup>18</sup> And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.  
(Also Rom. 8:29)

### 4. ReCreated—Image Restored

##### *How do you think of the eternal state?*

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 <sup>20</sup> But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive....<sup>47</sup> The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

##### Resources for Further Study

Being Human Randal Macaulay & Jerram Barrs\*\*  
Created in God's Image, Anthony Hoekema\*\*\*  
Designed for Dignity, Richard Pratt\*

\*Good place to start  
\*\*A little more advanced  
\*\*\*Stuff you read in Seminary