



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Welcome and New to Southwinds Gift Card** – Hi Everyone! Welcome to Southwinds Church. We are glad that you have joined us! If you are new to Southwinds Church, please stop by the Info Table in the lobby, scan the QR Code and complete our Connect Card. Let them know this is your first time visiting and receive a gift card. If you have any questions, someone at the Table will be happy to help you!
- **Discovery 201** – We will be holding a Discovery 201 class on Sunday, October 13th at 3pm. To attend this class please sign up on the APP. If you have questions go to info@southwinds.org.
- **Pumpkin Party Candy & Volunteers Needed** – Join us on Wednesday, October 30th from 6-8pm for a fun night of Carnival Games with candy, music, inflatables, yummy food and costume contest. Candy and volunteers are needed. Volunteer on the APP. For more information - go to: swkids@southwinds.org.
- **Men's Cornhole Tournament and Cook-off** – All guys young and old join us Sunday, October 20th at 5pm on the Courtyard for a Cornhole Tournament and Chili Cook-off. Cost is \$10 for BBQ dinner and chili samples. Bring a lawn chair.
- **Baptism** – Join us for our next Baptism on Sunday, October 20th at 3pm. Baptism allows a believer to declare to the world their heart-felt commitment to Christ. If you are ready to take this step please sign up on the APP.

MY STORY

Have a few people share about their favorite picture. What is more special to you – the real person or event – or the picture of it?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Have a Volunteer Read: Genesis 1:26-31

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." **29** And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. **30** And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. **31** And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

We are CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE.

"To be an image bearer means we are like God and we represent God. We are created in a unique way to image God, to display him to the universe." – **Michael Nolen**

Have you always believed that God created humans?
Has there been a time when you did not believe this? Explain.

Discuss the 3 ways being an image bearer of God expresses itself and why they are important:

- **Relate to God** – God made you for him, to be in relationship with him.
- **Represent (or reflect) God**
 - Moral capacity – sense of right and wrong
 - Spiritual capacity – spirits that enable us to be in relationship with God
 - Mental capacities – ability to think, reason, make decisions ... read, write, speak, express emotions
 - Creative capacities – appreciate beauty: art, poetry, music
 - Physical capacities – our bodies are living representatives or images, imaging aspects of what God is like.
- **Rule for God** - Like God, we are over his created order as those who rule, steward, and explore its riches, beauties.

We are created in God's image, MALE AND FEMALE.

"Our culture tries to tell us...that maleness and femaleness are not inherent to humanity, but social constructs we have imposed on people. Culture says we need to free ourselves from the shackles of gender, and then we will be truly free, joy-filled, flourishing. But that's wrong. We are not free to choose. Our gender is not defined by what we think about it, or what we prefer, but by what we are. (Not heart, but pants!). Our culture can say gender is malleable, changeable, but saying it doesn't make it so." – **Michael Nolen**

How does our culture push against the idea that God created human's male & female?
Why is it important to understand and believe this?
How does this inform our conversations with people?

We are created EQUAL BUT DIFFERENT.

"The fact that both men and women are created in God's image means we are equal in dignity, value and worth. Every single idea of gender superiority or inferiority is ruled out by the Bible. Both are equally important and valuable to God... that's what Scripture teaches. Why? Because we're all created in God's image. But this equality does not wipe out our differences. God created us male and female." – **Michael Nolen**

Additional Questions

We are CREATED BY GOD.

“Our culture fundamentally thinks that freedom, joy and flourishing are found within us, with what we feel, with what we think is right, what we want. God’s word tells us freedom, joy and flourishing are found outside us, in God the Creator and what he thinks and wants... in following God’s way.” – **Michael Nolen**

What are some dangers of finding truth and reality within us?

What does it mean to find truth outside of us?

SIN HAS DISTORTED God’s image in human beings.

“Instigation of Satan leads to the rebellion of Adam and Eve, which results in sin entering the world. The image of God in human beings has been distorted or perverted or twisted. It’s still there, but it’s malfunctioning. It’s broken.” – **Michael Nolen**

How does knowing that you have a sinful nature, help you to seek God.

Explain how knowing Jesus has helped to remove sin from your life?

Jesus Christ has come TO REDEEM THAT BROKEN IMAGE.

“Jesus wasn’t made in the image of God. Jesus was and is the image of God. The image of God came to restore what was broken in those who were made in the image of God. Jesus Christ, when he walked on this earth, imaged God the way he was intended to be imaged on the earth.” – **Michael Nolen**

How does knowing that you were made in the image of God help you restore your brokenness?

APPLICATION

In your prayer time this week, think about which point has made you think more.

Spend time thanking God for this truth.

Was there any point that was hard for you to accept?

PRAISES

PRAYER REQUESTS