

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Not in a small group? Contact us at smallgroups@myriversidechurch.com

Ice Breaker: What songs do you know that make you feel beautiful/handsome or valued? What songs have the opposite affect?

Group Discussion: *(Note: If your group is only meeting bi-weekly, use questions 2 & 4 for this week. If time allows, go back to the remaining questions.)*

1. Read Genesis 1:26-31. God created everything and called it good. However, He created humans as the pinnacle of his creation; calling us "very" or "super good." Why do you think He would do this? Is it easier for you to respond to God's creation around you or that He made it all for you to enjoy and rule over? Do you ever feel overwhelmed by the idea that God personally created you?
2. Pastor Tom stated that, "the image of God is not only a characteristic we have, but it is a function (something we do, a role we play...nothing about appearance is emphasized)". What are the characteristics of God? What functions does God have that we can also portray in our lives? Read and discuss 1 John 4:8 & 16 and Jeremiah 9:23-24. How does our concern of our appearance take away from our focus on our role of being in His image?
3. Read Psalm 8:3-8 and James 3:9 together. How does this passage describe humanity? Is this different or similar to our society's viewpoint? Pastor Tom described humanity's primary function as "rulership." Is this still true in today's world? Explain. Do we ignore this reality as individuals? How can we begin to apply this truth in our daily lives?
4. Pastor Tom listed several reasons why it is so important that we are created in God's image (see Message Notes #4). Which of these resonates with you the most? Are any more difficult to accept? Read the Starbuck quote included in your Message Notes. How does this view of our bodies impact you? Do you agree that your body is instrumental for the purpose of love? Why or why not? How do Romans 8:29 and 1 John 3:2 shape your thinking on this? How does being transformed into Christ's image make us "attractive?"

Pray Together: As we've looked at our selfie-obsessed society over the last 4 weeks, what areas have you identified in which you struggle? How can the group be praying for you in this area? Take time to pray together.

Just for You

When we know who God is and what some of His characteristics or attributes are, we better understand how incredible it is to be created in His image. Check out this brief 4 part video series from Josh McDowell:

[http://www.josh.org/video/2/attributes of god/](http://www.josh.org/video/2/attributes%20of%20god/)

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

"IDOLIZED IMAGE"
NOVEMBER 23, 2014



"Idolized Image"

November 23, 2014

By Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)

MESSAGE NOTES

It's understanding both that God created us and likes us and loves us right now no matter what our _____ type...but also that we are unique individuals because of who we actually r _____ (note *Genesis 1:27*).

What does it mean to be created in God's _____?

1. Human Beings Are the _____ of God's Creation

- People created last (the world is the stage set for the appearance of people).
- Only act of creation preceded by _____ deliberation (note *Genesis 1:26*) - "Let us...our...our" = Hebrew "p_____ of majesty"...the "royal _____" - a royal pronouncement.
- God's involvement in creating people is much more i _____ and intimate (note *Genesis 2*).
- Repetition of the term, " _____ " (note *Genesis 1:27*).
- God's evaluation after humankind's creation (note *Genesis 1:31* a = " _____ good")
- Special _____ ("in the image of God")

2. Human Beings Are Created in God's Image

...the image of God is not only a characteristic we have, but it is a function (something we do, a role we play...nothing about _____ is emphasized).

Terms " _____ " and "likeness" are synonymous (note *Genesis 1:26-28*).

Primary function = r _____

People are royalty in God's universe, not through a process of "natural selection" or struggle of the "survivor of the fittest" in evolutionary theory, but due to the _____ of their creation.

3. Are Human Beings _____ in the Image of God?

Note *James 3:9* and *Psalm 8:5-8*

" _____ cathedrals, yes, but cathedrals indeed."

4. Why Being Created in God's Image is So Important

- _____ people are images of God.
- Both men and women _____ images of God (note *Genesis 1:27; 5:1-2; Galatians 3:28*).
- How we view the e _____.
- Human life is _____ (note *Genesis 9:6*) - taking the human life was like "killing God in _____".
- Parenthood—together with God, a husband and wife are given the privilege of co- _____ a human life, which is the image of God.
- Resurrection—unlike most of the world's religions that either ignore the physical body or consider it _____, Christianity holds the physical body in high regard.

We can become satisfied with our "selfie":

"So the question remains: If not from being lifted up by men, and not from taking down other women, then where does a healthy "self-image" come from? God simply does not give much play in Scripture to buoying whatever "image" - whether flimsy or robust—we have of ourselves. Nowhere in Scripture does the Creator invite us to spend a moment navel-gazing to decide whether or not our bodies are acceptable or we are acceptable. In Christ we just _____. Every inch of us, from the bottom to the top... Though they are indeed a beautiful expression of God's handiwork, our bodies weren't made to be solely ornamental: they were made to be instrumental. They were given for the purpose of _____." (Starbuck)

- Incarnation—God's purpose in sending His Son Jesus to our world was to restore us "cracked cathedrals" to His _____ image (note *Romans 8:29* and *1 John 3:2*)

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



RIVERSIDE NOTES
Sermon: "Idolized Image"
Series: *Selfie Satisfaction*
November 23, 2014

It's understanding both that God created us and likes us and loves us right now no matter what our body type...but also that we are unique individuals because of who we actually resemble (note Genesis 1:27).

What does it mean to be created in God's image?

1. Human Beings Are the Pinnacle of God's Creation
 - A. People created last (the world is the stage set for the appearance of people).
 - B. Only act of creation preceded by divine deliberation (note Genesis 1:26) – "Let us...our...our" = Hebrew "plural of majesty"...the "royal we" – a royal pronouncement.
 - C. God's involvement in creating people is much more intensive and intimate (note Genesis 2).
 - D. Repetition of the term, "create" (note Genesis 1:27).
 - E. God's evaluation after humankind's creation (note Genesis 1:31a = "super good")
 - F. Special status ("in the image of God")
2. Human Beings Are Created in God's Image

...the image of God is not only a characteristic we have, but it is a function (something we do, a role we play...nothing about appearance is emphasized).

Terms "image" and "likeness" are synonymous (note Genesis 1:26-28).

Primary function = rulership

People are royalty in God's universe, not through a process of "natural selection" or struggle of the "survivor of the fittest" in evolutionary theory, but due to the dignity of their creation.

3. Are Human Beings Still in the Image of God?

Note James 3:9 and Psalm 8:5-8

"Cracked cathedrals, yes, but cathedrals indeed."

4. Why Being Created in God's Image is So Important
 - A. All people are images of God.
 - B. Both men and women represent images of God (note Genesis 1:27; 5:1-2; Galatians 3:28).
 - C. How we view the environment.
 - D. Human life is sacred (note Genesis 9:6) – the taking of human life was like "killing God in effigy".

- E. Parenthood – together with God, a husband and wife are given the privilege of co-creating a human life, which is the image of God.
- F. Resurrection – unlike most of the world's religions that either ignore the physical body or consider it evil, Christianity holds the physical body in high regard.

We can become satisfied with our "selfie":

"So the question remains: If not from being lifted up by men, and not from taking down other women, then where does a healthy "self-image" come from? God simply does not give much play in Scripture to buoying whatever "image"—whether flimsy or robust—we have of ourselves. Nowhere in does the Creator invite us to spend a moment navel-gazing to decide whether or not our bodies are acceptable or *we* are acceptable. In Christ we just are. Every inch of us, from the bottom to the top... Though they are indeed a beautiful expression of God's handiwork, our bodies weren't made to be solely ornamental: they were made to be instrumental. They were given for the purpose of Love." (Starbuck)

- G. Incarnation – God's purpose in sending His Son Jesus to our world was to restore us "cracked cathedrals" to His unstained image (note Romans 8:29 and 1 John 3:2)

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!