

Sermon Title: Being God's Image

Sermon Scripture: Psalm 8:1-9



Sermon Discussion Guide (6/01)

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

Scripture

Read Psalm 8:1-9 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

Observation

What do these verses reveal to us about the way that God cares for humanity? How does knowing how God cares for us affect the way that we live out our calling of verses 5-8?

In what way is contrast present between verses 3 and 4? How might this contrast affect the way that we interact with those who have less power or status than us?

Read Colossians 1:15-19. In verse 15, what does it mean that Jesus is the image of God? How does knowing who Jesus is help us to understand how we can live out our purpose as people created in God's image?

Read Romans 5:12-17. Why is it necessary for us to be redeemed from sin? What does this Scripture reveal to us about the ways that Jesus works to redeem us from sin?

Application

In Pastor Matt's sermon, he said that the question was not "are we being God's image?" but "are we being God's image well?" How often do you reflect on what it means to be God's image well? Why do you think this is?

We are all created in the image of God, but this image has been broken by sin. For us to rightly live out our purpose as people created in the image of God, Jesus must work within us to redeem the brokenness in our lives. In what areas of your life, do you feel like you are not rightly reflecting God's character to others? How might you surrender these places of your life to Christ so that He can redeem them for good?

Jesus embraced inclusion. What internal qualifiers do you try to put around the call to inclusion in order to exclude certain types of people or people who are in certain situations? How might God be calling you to let go of these qualifiers so that you can more fully love and welcome others?

In Pastor Matt's sermon, he said that Jesus showed compassion, sought justice, loved sacrificially, and embraced inclusion. Which of these attributes is God calling you to more fully live out? What is one step you will take this week to follow this call to live as Jesus lived?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for coming as the perfect Image, the Second Adam, to save us from sin and restore our purpose and calling. Thank You for showing us what it means to live out God's image. Thank you for your life of compassion, justice, love, and inclusion. Heal what is broken in us so that we may reflect Your presence and character more clearly. Make us vessels of Your grace and truth in the world. Amen.