

Title: “In His Image”

Text: John 1:14 NKJV

Proposition: We are created to be like our Father and fill the earth with His likeness

Purpose: Bring us closer to the Father so we can be who He created us to be

Event: Pinecroft Baptist Church – Senior Pastor

Date: 12.22.2024

14 *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

John 1:14 NKJV

I. Introduction – The First Advent

There is probably no end to the mystery for why Jesus came as a child, born of a woman, initiated by the Holy Spirit and developed from a zygote into a human being with breath. What is clear to me is this – Jesus came to be the image of His Father, imparted into the earth for our illustration, but also for our apostolic birth to be who we are created to be.

Jesus primarily came to show us the Father. The Father is the creator, the birther, the visionary. He is the architect, but He has chosen us to be the builders of His Kingdom on earth. Consider the wonder of the infant Jesus. He emerged from His mother’s womb. He was initially hidden. He was previously restricted by His location. But as He emerged and grew, Jesus became the fulness of what His Father created Him to be.

Before you knew Jesus, you were hidden and restricted. You had not yet met your Father. You didn’t have an identity. You were in need of the Father’s love. But when you met the Lord by the Holy Spirit, He birthed you into the Kingdom of God. You were reborn. You are now a child of God, created for good works, that you might walk in them.

But all this started with a meeting. You met the Father through Jesus, by His Spirit. We first see this process in Genesis, when mankind was created.

26 *“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, 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 *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

29 *And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.*

30 *Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food”; and it was so.*

31 *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”*

Genesis 1:26-31 NKJV

This is why you're alive. You were created to near your Father, and to be His likeness everywhere you go.

II. Your Identity Comes *With Your Father

6 *“Children’s children are the crown of old men,
And the glory of children is their father.”*

Proverbs 17:6 NKJV

Take yourself back to the very beginning. There is the Father and He's looking at dirt in the ground. And He personally uses His hands to fashion man. He personally puts His face to his face, and He breathes into Adam. This was an impartation. God put Himself inside of Adam. Your identity comes from the fact that the Father put Himself inside you. He gave you a portion of His Spirit. Every person has a Spirit, and that is what the earth responds to. The earth responds to the Spirit of God in you. Even your own heart yearns to know that part of you. It yearns, your soul yearns to know God, the very God that is right there, but yet seemingly so far away.

There is an unsatisfied part of all of us that can only be quenched by a living and loving relationship with our Father. This is why Jesus came, so all can have the opportunity to come to know the Father. The Father is love. That means He gives. And the first thing He gives is Himself.

When you came to life, you came to be as He is, because He is life. But there's so much more He wants to show you about Himself, and that's how you will come to know YOURSELF.

Let's return to Genesis, where God says, "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..." Here, God shows you your true identity. You were created to:

- Look like God
- Behave like God
- Represent God
- Express God

Everything you ever would do or even think was originally designed to be a carbon copy of what God does and how He does it. You are to say what He is saying, but also say it the way He is saying it. There is a production of His movement and activity that we have been brought into, but the movement and production has a method, a "way," a tone, a texture, a format. So, you can freely ask yourself throughout the day, "What is the Father doing in me and through me, and how does He want it to be expressed?"

And the most important part of all of this is this: Your life and everything in it, were all created to be done WITH HIM. Jesus, of course, modeled this perfectly. He said it this way:

⁹ "Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." "
John 5:19 NKJV

You were created to partner with the Father in His purpose. And that is to reveal Himself to the entire earth! All of creation wants you to step into your spiritual inheritance, the identity you have as a child and image of God.

One of the main reasons the Lord commanded us not to create any idols, with any likeness, is not only because it obscures who He is, they also obscure who you are.

III. Your Identity, Your Purpose

Just as Jesus was born a King, you were created for kingship. In your identity as a child of God, there are perks, benefits, and work to be done. The perks and work all come as a result of your relationship as the Father's child.

28 "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

29 And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food."

30 Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.

31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

Genesis 1:28-31 NKJV

Here, we see the Lord sends us, as His ambassadors, to BUILD something for Him AND with Him. We are the Lord's builders. In fact, the word for "son" in Hebrew and "daughter," come from a root word that means "to build" or "repair." Your identity comes interconnected with the ability to build! What He means when He says "bear fruit," is simply saying, go and build my Father's vision. Build His Kingdom. Fix what's broken!!! Create! Take what the Lord has put inside of you and what He puts ON you so that you can do what's impossible in the eyes of man. Take God's heart, and speak it. Take God's heart and build it!

And we can have ZERO FEAR, because the Lord gives us unlimited access to three vital things in this passage:

- Resources
- Ability
- Permission

*“By this My Father is glorified, that you **bear much fruit**; so you will be My disciples.”*
John 15:8 NKJV

One of the signs we are walking closely with God is that we are CREATING. God is a creator. As a Father, He has a plan, and He gives us ability and power to fulfill and execute. You might be a writer, a singer, an entrepreneur. God gives His children unlimited access to the solutions this world needs. The solutions that start with His love. We are sent to heal, and preach, and raise the dead, because that’s what the Father does. All we need to do is tap into the Father who is inside of us and let Him lead and guide and empower.

IV. Conclusion: The Key Is Nearness

“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, **bears much fruit**; for without Me you can do nothing.
 John 15:5 NKJV

We need to be reminded, that all this starts and ends with Him. He is the Alpha and the Omega. And He has invited us into what and who He is, primarily. The identity and the purpose come from nearness. The Lord wants you near. You cannot be who you truly are without be close to God daily, as often as possible. Seek His face continually.

*“Look to the Lord and his strength;
 seek his face always.”*
Psalm 105:4 NKJV

7 “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Life in God’s Garden

8 The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.”
Genesis 2:7-8 NKJV

The Lord created us while He was near and breathed into us. Then He created an environment where we could live together WITH HIM.

Your life is worship. Worship is life. To live is Christ. I implore you to live with the Lord. Do as Jesus did, wake up and walk every day and go to bed every night enamored with your Father. Jesus is the door. He is the shepherd who takes us to the Father's heart. To know Jesus, is to know the Father. I invite you to seek Jesus and walk with Him, sacrificially every single day of your life. And you will find your identity and create unthinkable and unimaginable things that give God glory and express His likeness in the earth!

I'm inviting everyone in Pinecroft into a walk with the Lord that is adventurous and dangerous, but the safest place you can be. Adoring your Father and allowing Him to use you mightily as He teaches you His person. This is who you are.