

Study Guide

JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE 1
2012

ADAM AND EVE

The fact that people are made in God's image is extremely important and intentionally left a bit undefined in the Bible. Humanity stands alone, uniquely connected and equipped by the Creator. Although the depths of this mystery are unfathomable, there are high impact, practical ramifications that touch every aspect of humanity.



EXCAVATE CONTEXT (Use these references for study preparation)

- Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985), 495-517.
- Lou Fortier, "Journey through the Bible: Adam and Eve," 2012.
- Michael Harbin, *The Promise and the Blessing*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005), 57-77.



EXPLORE THE SCRIPTURE I (Read these key passages to formulate a clearer picture of what is implied in the image of God concept)

Created in God's Image

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them (Gen. 1:26-27/NIV).

Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind (Gen. 9:6/NIV).

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters (Rom. 8:29/NIV).

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18/NIV).

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator (Col. 3:9-10/NIV).



DIG DEEP TO DO I

1. What could be meant by "God's image?" (see *Christian Theology* for additional information).
2. What are the implications to people being made in the image of God with regard to the value of life and freedom?
3. How could a clear understanding of the image of God impact everyday life?



EXPLORE THE SCRIPTURE II (Read these key passages to formulate a clearer picture of what is implied in the image of God concept)

Passing the Buck

We often think if we had perfect circumstances we would always succeed. Looking back to the headwaters of humanity we see that it did not guarantee Adam and Eve's success. They even went so far as to blame God for their sin.

Read Gen. 3:8-13 and observe how they passed responsibility to someone else.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from? ¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate" (Gen. 3:8-13/NIV).



DIG DEEP TO DO II

1. How does denial and passing the sin buck hinder you?
2. What factors make buck passing a popular path for God's highest creation?
3. How could we take responsibility for our sin and what benefit would we discover?

Interestingly, we are good at passing the buck; yet we often embrace blame and guilt that does not belong to us. We are complex and confused people. Adam and Eve sinned but it was not God's fault. Although they tried to blame him, he does not second-guess himself. He could have thought: maybe I should have warned them more, hidden the tree, muzzled the snake, made more surprise visits, but it was not God's fault. As such good buck passers, why are we so good at blaming ourselves for things that are not our fault? What do we need to do to break the crazy sin cycle and live a confident, Christ like life?