

# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 2

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear,  
but of **power**,  
and of **love**,  
and of a **sound**  
**mind**.  
2 Timothy 1:7

## MAN IS IMAGE OF GOD

*Scripture Texts: Genesis 1:27; 5:1; 9:1-6; Psalm 82:6;  
1 Corinthians 15:49*

Man has the physical likeness of God in his body. Some think because **God is a Spirit (John 4:24)** that He has no body. Man is a spirit also, yet he has a body. We read of God's hands, finger, arm, feet, heart, face, eyes, ears, nostrils, mouth, voice, and laugh. Man has the same. Is not our body the image of God's? How should we use it? (Read

**1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20; Romans 6:13.**)

God made His image in body, mind, and spirit. We can and should glorify Him here and live with Him eternally. Repentance makes it possible.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.—Genesis 1:27*

### In His Image

**Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image.** He made man like Himself. Only as we realize this can we set before us an ideal great enough to attain the height God planned we should. Being in the image of God, we represent God. To rightly represent Him, we should be able to say, **As he is, so are we in this world (1 John 4:17).**

### In the Day

**Genesis 5:1 The day that God created man** was man's beginning. Then he was made **in the likeness of God**. Monkeys are not in the likeness of God. So man was never one of those or of some other creation. Man is still in the image of God. Paul spoke of men in his day as **the image and glory of God (1 Corinthians 11:7)**. James deplored cursing of men **made after the similitude of God in James 3:9**. Man has dishonored God's image, despised it, shamed and blasphemed it, yet cannot lose it. Is there any-thing that makes sin to be sin except that it shames the divine image we bear? Is there any worth except as the image reflects the beauty of the Original?

### Fear of Man

**Genesis 9:1-5 And the fear of you . . . shall be upon every beast . . .** God supported the dominion He had given by giving fear of man to animals. Why do birds and beasts, indifferent to the presence of other diverse animals, take instant alarm at the approach of a human? This, too, is a mark of the image of God. The fear of God is upon His children (**Psalm 96:9**). The flesh of animals and the green herb were given to man for meat, but it was not to be eaten with the blood, because the life is in the blood.

**Genesis 9:6** The blood is sacred. God requires man's blood of any who shed it. Why? **For in the image of God made he man.** That image must be revered. In **Luke 3:38** we read of **Adam, which was the son of God**. Not a begotten son, but a created one.

God thinks, feels, cares, sorrows, rejoices, is angry, is pleased, loves, pities, remembers, plans, speaks, and laughs. We read of **the wisdom and knowledge of God** and of **the mind of the Lord (Romans 11:33-34)**. Man can think of abstract things; of the past, present, and future; of eternity. While the unregenerate man is blind to spiritual matters, when born of God, he comprehends them. Only God, angels, demons, and men have the power of speech. Man can purpose and follow out a purpose. He can envision an ideal toward which to reach. Is not

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our mind the image of God's? We should be careful to what thoughts we direct it. (Read **Philippians 4:8; II Timothy 1:7; Isaiah 26:3**)

### A High Title

**Psalm 82:6 Ye are gods . . . children of the most High.** Jesus put His stamp of truth upon this (**John 10:34-35**). A high title! Yes, but God gave it. Coming from God, humans are lesser gods! The words of Peter cause us to tremble: **What manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?** As gods, humans were given dominion over earth's creatures. This is a lesser power of the sovereign dominion Almighty God holds over all. As His off-spring, what response will we make to Him? We are responsible to Him and will give account. "Take life as you find it, but don't leave it so."

### The Heavenly Image

**1 Corinthians 15:49** God's plan for man is a continuing one. After this life He means for us to go into a greater heavenly one. Those saved from sin here will enter it. Here we bear the image of the earthly or God's image in a mortal, physical body. There God's people will bear His image in an incorruptible, immortal body. Christ will change our bodies to be like His glorious body (**Philippians 3:21**). Christ's glorified body was like His temporal body. Read **1 Corinthians 15:44-49**.

Man can know God. God's Spirit can witness to his spirit. He can live in us. We can aspire to things of God, can lay hold by faith upon things eternal; can bear the fruit of the Spirit of God. Worship is our spirit answering to His. Man's regenerate spirit can discern the things of God. Our spirit can be joined with God, and when leaving here can return to dwell with Him (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**). Is not our spirit the image of God's?

Sin has separated us. We must repent that our Spirit may live again and go to be with Jesus. Christ gives His people the glory His Father gave Him (**John 17:22**). How great our God! What a mighty God we serve! He gives His gift to us.

*"Flower in the crannied wall,  
I pluck you out of the crannies,  
I hold you here, root and all, in my hand, little flower;  
But if I could understand what you are,  
Root and all, and all in all,  
I should know what God and man is."*

—Tennyson

### JUST A THOUGHT

**"Sin is not done with us when we are done with sin."**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.  
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