

THE IMAGE BEARER

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There is a question in every human being that gnaws at their soul.

- * Many times they don't even recognize the question;
- * They just wander around life lost--not knowing there is a question and certainly not knowing the answer.
- * They live with a sense of not being complete--something is missing...
- * They are living life without their identity.
- * There was a TV show in 1965 about this very thing.
- * A Man Called Shenandoah.
- * The story was about a man who was shot and left for dead on the trail; he is found and revived, but has no recollection of his past, and calling himself 'Shenandoah', roams the West in search of his identity...
- * I faintly remember watching this show and what stands out in my memory is the desperation that this man had in finding out who he was...
- * As a result of the tree incident, mankind was shot and left for dead so to speak, and have been trying to find their identity ever since.
- * The question is: WHAT IS MY PURPOSE IN THIS THING CALLED 'LIFE'?
- * Why am I even here in the earth?
- * Who am I?
- * Praise God He gave us the Answer! Genesis 1:26-28: let's read it.
- * It's the sixth day and time for the creation of mankind.
- * The decision was made to create humans in the image of GOD.
- * The Hebrew word 'tselem' is a masculine noun that is translated 'image; or a representative figure; an idol'.
- * Isn't it interesting that the rebel spirits like to have 'images' of themselves that are to be worshiped as 'false gods'...
- * The word that is translated 'likeness' comes from the Hebrew word 'Demuth' and is a feminine noun.
- * It could also be translated as figure; form; pattern; or something resembling...
- * "Let Us make mankind in Our image; as Our representative figure and after our likeness [after our figure; after our form; We will be the pattern and they will resemble Us].
- * Notice the first word 'image' speaks of OUR PURPOSE...
- * First thing God does is tell WHY mankind was created--

- * TO BE THE CREATURE THAT REPRESENTS GOD IN THE EARTH!
- * The second word 'likeness' speaks of the physical form or shape of the human body.
- * Humans were created to represent God's character, which is internal; and His form or shape, which is external, in the physical dimension called 'time'.
- * Notice that these two words are male and female--so God created mankind in His own IMAGE (male noun) and LIKENESS (female noun) of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- * He then blesses them; gives them instructions; gives them unconditional authority to rule over the earth and everything in it.
- * WE ARE GOD'S IMAGE BEARERS--
- * We represent His character and we display His form in the earth.
- * To who?
- * To ALL His creation--both in the physical world AND in the spirit world.
- * Here's the revelation; and this is where you need to be teachable:
- * We are to present God's character to the world...
- * AND we are to present His form--this speaks of our bodies.
- * Does your body represent Him well?
- * Are you taking care of your body or are you abusing it?
- * 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Passion Translation read it
- * Your body does not belong to you.
- * It is now the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- * You were bought with a great price.
- * Use your body to bring glory to God.
- * It's supposed to look like Him.
- * I'm talking to folks who call themselves 'Christian'--little Christ-like ones...
- * You'd better not be abusing your body with drugs, alcohol, illegal sexual activity; or how about this one--food...it's called gluttony...
- * What about marking up your body with piercings and tattoos....
- * What about crazy hair colors...
- * You'd better not do anything to your body until you ask the owner of it what He wants done to it...
- * Romans 12:1-2 Passion Translation read it
- * Surrender yourself to God.
- * Become His sacred, living sacrifice.
- * Live in holiness--that means separation--set apart...
- * STOP imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you!
- * Instead--be transformed by a new perspective!
- * This will empower you...
- * The Gospel has been reduced to saying a prayer and a ticket to a place called

Heaven.

- * But God created you for a purpose and that purpose is for you to represent Him in the earth both internally and externally.
- * Both spiritually and physically.
- * Displaying His amazing character..
- * AND displaying His beautiful form...
- * 1 Peter 2:9 Passion Translation read it
- * You are priests who are kings!
- * A spiritual nation set apart...
- * You've been called out of darkness into His marvelous light
- * God claims you as His own!
- * Why?
- * So that you would broadcast His glorious wonders...
- * His glorious wonders is Christ IN you!
- * The image of God back in the earth!
- * Come out from among them! Be ye separate!
- * Display God's character and display His form.
- * Don't think like the world...
- * Don't act like the world...
- * Don't look like the world...
- * Don't settle for being the image bearer of this world...
- * Have the courage to accept the call of God to be His image bearer in the earth!