

# **2020 Vision – Part 3**

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**The quality of your life will never rise above the level of the image of God revealed in your relational life**

- Being made whole or holy is simply when we more fully reflect His image in us.

**Today's take away:** We need each other to be made whole & fully reflect "His image" in our lives.

### **God's relational image revealed**

1. God's image in gender
2. God's image in marriage
3. God's image reproduced

#### **1. God's image in gender – male and female**

**Genesis 1:27 (NKJV)** - So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- The full image of God is revealed in male and female

#### **2. God's image in marriage – husband and wife**

**Matthew 19:4-6** - "Haven't you read," Jesus replied, "that at the beginning the creator made them male and female, and said, 'for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

#### **3. God's image reproduced – children**

**Malachi 2:15 (TLB)** - You were united to your wife by the Lord. in God's wise plan, when you married, the two of you became one person in his sight. and what does he want? Godly children from your union. Therefore, guard your passions! Keep faith with the wife of your youth.

- The image of God altered is called a false god or idol

**This is why the First 2 of the 10 Commandments are:**

1. You shall have no other gods before Me
2. You shall not make idols

God rejects His image being altered in you because he loves you

- Anything I add or subtract from the image of God diminishes his loving plan for my life.
- He will have no other Gods before Him

### **Images God rejects:**

1. Changing your gender
  2. Homosexuality & gay marriage
  3. Any sex outside of a marriage that is between one man and one woman
  4. Children born outside of a marriage that is between one man and one woman
  5. Pornography or sexual intimacy alone
  6. Divorce
- Redesigning sex, marriage, gender & family is redesigning the image of God and is called idolatry!
  - While God rejects his image being altered, he doesn't reject you!
  - The love of God creates a way to have the image of God manifest in our broken lives.
  - This is not a message of shame, but of redemption
  - Don't run from God today, run to Him

### **A weaponized and misunderstood scripture:**

**Romans 1:21-22** - Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give Him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. and instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere mortal men and birds and animals and reptiles.

- Creating a God in your image is the creation of a false god or idol.

**Romans 1:24-27** - So God abandoned them, (*respected their free will*) permitting them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. They traded the truth about god for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created, instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved for their perversion

### **How do I take next steps to reflect His image?**

We need each other to be made whole & fully reflect "His image" in our lives. We can do this through small groups. At small groups, we can get connection, receive care, and grow spiritually. We can find freedom through freedom groups.

- If you do not experience the unconditional love of God from people, you will not be able to heal and overcome the power of sin, guilt and shame and experience being transformed into His image.

**Galatians 6:1-2** - brothers, if a man be overtaken in a fault or a sin, you which are spiritual, restore such a person in the spirit of gentleness; considering yourself, for you can also be tempted. bear and carry one another's burdens, and in doing so, you will fulfill the law of Christ.

- Truly spiritual people love us in our deepest sin and brokenness.
- Jesus said, "that all men will know you are my followers, by your love for one another!"
- Take off the mask, join with others and be loved into His image.