

LEARN

What stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday? What was most helpful, encouraging or challenging to your walk with Christ?

What does it mean to be made in God's image?

(Image is often translated "idol", with the idea of representation and likeness. We were made to represent God on earth – accurately show forth his character and point to him as King)

Why is it so important in our present age to insist on all people bearing God's image?

(Every person, at every stage of life from conception to death, and every race, is worthy of respect, dignity, protection and kindness. Without a biblical framework about humans being God's image bearers, all manner of horrors from abortion to racism to euthanasia become defensible and rational)

Read Mark 7:14-23 and Romans 10:9-10. The "heart" is the seat of our intellectual, emotional, volitional, and spiritual life. How does this focus on the heart help you understand sin and salvation?

(Sin resides in and springs forth from the heart, driving our motives, thoughts, actions, and reasoning. When God saves us he gives us a new heart from which we can love God and truly obey him. We still fight our old nature/man, but legitimately have the power by the Spirit to not sin and love/obey God from the heart)

PRACTICE

How does the fact that you are made in the image of God create both humility and confidence in you as a Christian?

(humility – we are dependent on God for everything / confidence – we are loved more than we know)

You were created as completely dependent on God. What practical effects does your dependence on God have in how you think and live? How does it effect how you pray?

Read Hebrews 1:1-3 and 2 Corinthians 3:17-18. Jesus is the perfect image of God and in salvation we are being transformed into his image continually. What is a way you know you've grown or changed in the past few months to better reflect God's image?

(You are looking for testimonies of praise for growth. Another idea is to encourage one another by stating ways you've observed growth in their lives)

CHANGE

(Leaders: You are free to use one or both of these questions and are encouraged to do so in men's/women's accountability time)

God wants your heart to be fully alive in him and fully surrendered to him. Is it? What is one specific way you need to ask God to change your heart to love and serve him more faithfully?

How are you currently doing at representing, or "imaging forth", the character of God? What is something specific you desire to grow in, in order to more accurately reflect God to the world?