



Who is made in God’s image...male, female, or both?

BOTH male and female are made in God’s image. Created by God, men and women are NOT divine. However, God stamps us with the Creator’s imprint. Every human has inherent value - given as a gift from the Creator. We do not earn this value or worth. God doesn’t wait to stamp boys and girls at birth with his image. God’s image is deeply woven into the being of every child - from the moment of conception. Genesis 1:27 states,

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

The pinnacle of creation!

The crowning moment of God’s design was the creation of the man and woman. God said in Genesis 1:26, *“Let us make mankind in our image,”* (*tselem* = shadow, representative figure) *“in our likeness,”* (*demuth* = resemblance). No other portion of creation bears God’s image - only people. And what is the first indication that they represent God? Shared ruling power... *“so that they may rule over...”* Both man and woman are to rule creation - but *not* one another. God delighted in his image-bearing humans. After making people, God said, *“It is very good”* Gen 1:31.

How are people created in God’s image?

Does God have ten fingers and ten toes? No! As people made in God’s image, we are: spiritual, rational, creative, relational, caretakers of creation; we are able to love, to sacrifice, to choose. We can use power to steward the earth on behalf of God. Just as God knew when to stop creating on day seven, so the man and woman can also use control to stop, to rest, and to use restraint.

Good human attributes find their origin in God.

Both genders display actions which reflect God’s own character. God nurtures, protects, provides, and loves. Males can and should nurture, protect, provide and love. In the same way, females can and should nurture, protect, provide and love. When we see a dad lovingly change his child’s diaper or a mother gently rock her baby, we catch a glimpse of God’s nurture. When we see a dad jump into a lake to save his child, or a mom hold her child’s hand while crossing the street, we see God’s protection.

Genesis 5:1-2 also describes the origin of people:

“When God created mankind (adam) he made them in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them and named them ‘mankind’ (adam) when they were created.”

In these verses, *adam* is not the man’s first name. Here *“adam”* is the joint identity of both the man and woman. Together, they are members of the human race, both bearers of God’s image.

Conclusion

God created both male and female in his image. Therefore, we should respect and value both as image-bearers. God wants His people to recognize the inherent value of all people. When we do, we honor the Creator!

Key Term

imago Dei

Latin for “image of God”

Key Term

adam - mankind, humankind

4 Crucial Questions

1. What does this teach us about **GOD**?
2. What does this teach us about **PEOPLE**?
3. What command should I **OBEY**?
4. With whom can I **SHARE** this?