

# In His Image

Genesis 1:26-27; Proverbs 24:11-12;  
Mark 10:46-49

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## This Week's Focus

The world we live in is a broken system. It was not always so. God created the world good (Gen. 1), but when Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God, they invited corruption into the world and the good system God made was corrupted (Gen. 3:7-24).

As those who believe that Jesus came to redeem the world (John 3:17), we must not ignore the brokenness we see in the world. One of the greatest injustices today is the systematic way our culture disregards the unborn. Rather than turn a blind eye to injustice, we must look to Christ for the strength we need to fight against it.

Genesis 1:26-27; Proverbs 24:11-12;  
Mark 10:46-49

Begin by reading the passage  
through two times.

**26** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." **27** So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.

**11** Rescue those being taken off to death, and save those stumbling toward slaughter. **12** If you say, "But we didn't know about this," won't He who weighs hearts consider it? Won't He who protects your life know? Won't He repay a person according to his work?

**46** They came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting by the road. **47** When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out, "Son of David, Jesus, have mercy on me!"

**48** Many people told him to keep quiet, but he was crying out all the more, "Have mercy on me, Son of David!" **49** Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man and said to him, "Have courage! Get up; He's calling for you."

Share about a time when you witnessed someone being treated unfairly.  
How did you react?

How would you react if you found out that injustice was regularly being overlooked in your city or community?



## The Image of God

The image of God probably involves the personality, aesthetic appreciation, authority, moral, and spiritual qualities that both God and humans share, unlike the animals. Since God and humans share such likeness, it should not be surprising that a relationship between God and man is a focus in the rest of Scripture. Mankind possesses a self-conscious life in which he is able to thank and worship the Creator.

## Genesis 1:26-27

What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

What are the implications of this truth with regard to how we see, think about, and treat other human beings?

## Proverbs 24:10-12

According to verse 10, how do most people tend to respond to difficulty or adversity? Why do you think that is?

What does such a response communicate about us? About our faith?



Look at verse 12. How did Solomon expect his readers to respond to the injustice they saw around them? How should we respond to the injustice we see around us?

Why shouldn't we view abortion only as a political issue? What are some practical, nonpolitical ways we can fight against the injustice of abortion today?

How did Solomon respond to those who claimed to be ignorant of injustice (v. 12)? Can we claim to be truly unaware of the injustice in our world today? Why or why not?

What does such a response communicate about us? About our faith?

## Mark 10:46-49

Why did Bartimaeus cry out for mercy? What does "mercy" here really mean?

Compare and contrast how the crowd responded to Bartimaeus with how Jesus responded to him. What can we learn from this example?

## Central Truth

Following Christ requires acknowledging and striving against the injustice in our world.

### Now What?

How can we fight the temptation of turning a blind eye to injustice in the world today?

What are some practical ways we might advocate for victims of injustice in the world?

Along with the unborn, who are some other groups of people our culture tends to silence or ignore? How can we serve and point such people to Christ?

Brainstorm some ways that we can advocate for the unborn, widows, single mothers, and for needy children.



## Personal Challenge

**Dwell:** What will you do this week to be an advocate for those whose voices are silenced? How will you serve them, love them, and point them to Jesus? Brainstorm a list of ways you could do so. Make plans to put one or two of these ideas into practice this week.

**Memorize:** Proverbs 24:10

**Pray:** Thank God for sending Jesus to endure God's just wrath for sin on your behalf. Pray that His example would empower and encourage you as you seek to advocate for justice for the people around you. Pray that God would open your eyes to the plight of the oppressed around you and make you a passionate advocate for them.

## Keep on Digging

Read Psalm 139 and make a list of what these verses tell you about God's knowledge and care for all people. When you are done, take some time to consider whether these realities are actively reflected in the way you talk about, think about, and interact with people in your life. How might you acknowledge the image of God in all people? What might need to change for you to truly glorify God in your interactions with others?