



By Design
His Image

The apostle John said no one has seen God at any time.

John 1:18

18 No one has seen God at any time...

NKJV

He is a spiritual being. He is eternal, immortal, and invisible.

1 Timothy 1:17

17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

KJV

God chose to make Himself visible in a material universe. God created the world to make Himself known.

Romans 1:20

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead...

NKJV

All of creation reveals the glory of God.

- The sun, the stars, and the moon reveal the glory of God. (Psalm 19:1)
- The earth, the mountains, the sea, and the trees reveal the glory of God. (Psalm 104:24-25)
- The animals, the fish, the birds of the air, and every living thing reveal the glory of God. (Job 12:7-10)

But when God chose to make Himself known, His greatest and highest expression was the creation of mankind.

Genesis 1:26-27

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

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Mankind was created in the very image of God.

- Mankind was the crown jewel.
- Mankind was the showpiece
- Mankind was the highlight
- Mankind was the feature
- Mankind was the main attraction

What was so special about mankind?

Examples:

- **Mankind was created to be an eternal spiritual being.**
In mankind God united the spiritual with the material. Man was created with the ability to know God and walk with God.
- **Mankind was created to be a rational and volitional being.**
Mankind was blessed with the ingenuity of God to create music, art, architecture, and machines.
- **Mankind was created to be a loving being.**
Mankind was blessed with the capacity to love as God loves without any thought of one's self.
- **Mankind was created to care for God's creation.**
As the highest of God's creation, mankind was given God's power to have dominion over the earth. The earth and all living things were subject to mankind. The universe was created to be ever expanding and mankind had the power to speak into creation that which would that would best reveal God's glory.
- **Mankind was created with God's perfect nature.**

To see mankind was to see the splendor of God's character. Mankind was the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being. Mankind was God's shining light to His radiance and His glory.

Then the fall of mankind happened. The apostle Paul said that mankind became dead in transgressions and sins. (Ephesians 2:1).

It was not long before God would say that He was grieved that He had created mankind.

[Genesis 6:5-6](#)

[5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.](#)

[6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.](#)

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The wickedness of mankind is terribly underestimated by the world. One of the reasons is that it is underestimated is that most people do not know what mankind was like in the beginning.

They cannot see how far we have fallen from God's original plan.

They believe a person is good if they do good works.

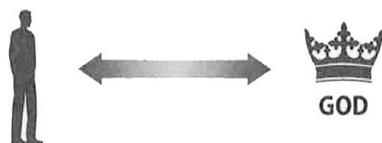
They are not honest with themselves about the evil intents of their hearts.

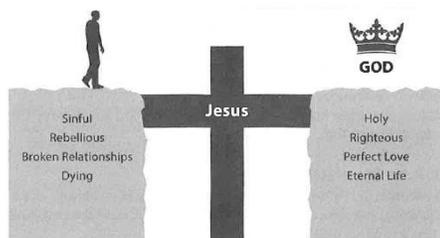
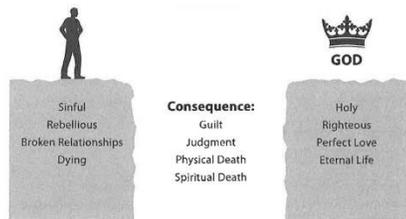
[Jeremiah 17:9](#)

[9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?"](#)

[NKJV](#)

Instead of terminating His plan for mankind, God chose to redeem and restore mankind. He chose to redeem and restore mankind for His glory; to make Himself known.





To accomplish His plan, God provided a payment for our sins that was sufficient to satisfy His justice. He took on the form of a man, defeated sin, and died. The second Adam died for the first Adam and all his descendants.

- Christ centered
 - Trusts God
 - Obeys God
 - Empowered by the Holy Spirit
 - Introduces others to Christ
 - Effective prayer life
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- Love
 - Joy
 - Peace
 - Patience
 - Kindness
 - Faithfulness
 - Goodness
 - Understands God's Word

This sacrifice enables those the descendants of the first Adam to become descendants of the second Adam. It enables the descendants of the first Adam to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

It enables us to put off our old man and put on the new man.

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

[17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.](#)

[NKJV](#)

It enables us to be restored and God's original intention for mankind to be fulfilled. Those who receive Jesus are the highest expressions of God's glory on earth.

It is only going to get better.

1 John 3:2

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. NKJV

How should we respond to these truths?

- Remorse

We should have remorse for how far mankind has fallen.

We can see it in our depravity...

1. What we do to one another
2. What we do to ourselves
3. What we don't do for one another
4. What we celebrate
5. What we worship
6. What we don't worship

We can see it in our decline...

1. How we age
2. How we suffer
3. How we die



There was an actor named Christopher Reeves who portrayed Super Man. He was injured in an accident and was paralyzed. He would never again be able to portray superman. To his credit, he made the most of what he suffered.

But he suffered great remorse as he considered what he had lost.

We should have remorse for how far mankind has fallen.

2 Corinthians 7:10

10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

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When the Holy Spirit of God shows you your sin and how far you have fallen, you suffer great remorse.

- **Repentance**

You should believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ. You should no longer be content with living like a fallen creature. You should receive Jesus and receive your new identity in Christ.

- **Restoration**

We should take an honest inventory of our souls on a regular basis and take note of those areas that need to be restored.

Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. NKJV

During our visit to Chicago we took an architectural tour. We traveled by boat on the Chicago river through the streets of downtown Chicago. We learned that architecture is art. Every architect is sending a message by the way that He personally designed his building.

One of the most meaningful buildings was designed by a man whose grandfather had built a building on the other side of the river. His name was Dirk Lohan.



To pay tribute to his grandfather, the grandson designed part of his building in the image of his grandfather's design.

In the same way that this grandson honored His grandfather, we should honor God by showing His image to the world.

Conclusion

Edwin Lutzer was the graduation speaker at Brandon Werner's graduation in Chicago. One of the things He said about graduation from college is that while salvation is by grace, graduation is by works.

The same can be said for our part in being restored to God's image.

- [We work to learn.](#)

We learn by...

Meditation on God's truth

Living in community with other believers

- [We work to apply](#)

We apply by being honest about our struggles

We apply by being accountable to other believers

- [We work to serve](#)

We serve by discovering the needs of others

We serve by using our gifts to meet those needs

I do not know if the grandson received from his grandfather the means He needed to build the building that honored His grandfather. Perhaps there was an inheritance.

I do know that God provides everything we need to restore His image in our lives. Our part has been made possible by the inheritance we have already received through the sacrifice of Jesus; the Holy Spirit.

If we will depend upon the Holy Spirit, we can be restored. We can perform the works of God. We can show off His glory.

The glory of God is the beauty and excellence of his manifold perfections. It is an attempt to put into words what God is like in his magnificence and purity. It refers to his infinite and overflowing fullness of all that is good. The term might focus on his different attributes from time to time — like his power and wisdom and mercy and justice — because each one is indeed awesome and beautiful in its magnitude and quality. But in general,

God's glory is the perfect harmony of all his attributes into one infinitely beautiful and personal being. John Piper

Will you receive Jesus and His vision for your life?

Will you depend upon the Holy Spirit and do the works that you need to do to change into His image?