



THE IMAGE OF GOD: THEN AND NOW

- AT CREATION: GOOD BUT INCOMPLETE
- POST FALL: MARRED AND BLURRY
- AFTER RETURN OF CHRIST: COMPLETE AND PERFECT

WORK OF THE SPIRIT

- ^{NAS} **2 CORINTHIANS 3:18** BUT WE ALL, WITH UNVEILED FACE BEHOLDING AS IN A MIRROR THE GLORY OF THE LORD, ARE BEING TRANSFORMED INTO THE SAME IMAGE FROM GLORY TO GLORY, JUST AS FROM THE LORD, THE SPIRIT.
- ^{NAS} **GALATIANS 5:22** BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, ²³ GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL; AGAINST SUCH THINGS THERE IS NO LAW. ²⁴ NOW THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST JESUS HAVE CRUCIFIED THE FLESH WITH ITS PASSIONS AND DESIRES.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

- ^{NAS} **PHILIPPIANS 2:12** SO THEN, MY BELOVED, JUST AS YOU HAVE ALWAYS OBEYED, NOT AS IN MY PRESENCE ONLY, BUT NOW MUCH MORE IN MY ABSENCE, WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING; ¹³ FOR IT IS GOD WHO IS AT WORK IN YOU, BOTH TO WILL AND TO WORK FOR *HIS* GOOD PLEASURE.
- ^{NAS} **GALATIANS 5:25** IF WE LIVE BY THE SPIRIT, LET US ALSO WALK BY THE SPIRIT.



THE IMAGE OF GOD



WHAT IS GOD?

GOD IS ...

- ^{NAS} **JOHN 4:24** "GOD IS SPIRIT, AND THOSE WHO WORSHIP HIM MUST WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH."
- ^{ESV} **1 JOHN 1:5** THIS IS THE MESSAGE WE HAVE HEARD FROM HIM AND PROCLAIM TO YOU, THAT GOD IS LIGHT ...
- ^{ESV} **1 JOHN 4:8** ANYONE WHO DOES NOT LOVE DOES NOT KNOW GOD, BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE.

GOD IS LOVE

- 1 JOHN 4:8,16

- LOVE IS THE VERY ESSENCE, NOT MERELY AN ATTRIBUTE, OF GOD. IT IS CO-ESSENTIAL WITH HIM: HE IS ALL LOVE, LOVE IS ALL OF HIM

➤ *HENRY ALFORD*

- THE APOSTLE TELLS US THAT GOD IS LOVE, 1 JOHN 4:8. AND THEREFORE SEEING HE IS AN INFINITE BEING, IT FOLLOWS THAT HE IS AN INFINITE FOUNTAIN OF LOVE.

➤ *JONATHAN EDWARDS*



WHAT IS LOVE?

NT WORDS FOR LOVE

- PHILEO: *LOVE*, AS DEVOTION BASED IN THE EMOTIONS
 - ^{NIV} **MATTHEW 10:37** "ANYONE WHO LOVES HIS FATHER OR MOTHER MORE THAN ME IS NOT WORTHY OF ME; ANYONE WHO LOVES HIS SON OR DAUGHTER MORE THAN ME IS NOT WORTHY OF ME;
- AGAPE: *LOVE*, AS DEVOTION BASED IN THE WILL
 - ^{NIV} **1 JOHN 4:8** WHOEVER DOES NOT LOVE DOES NOT KNOW GOD, BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE.
 - CHARITY, BENEVOLENCE, GOOD-WILL

CHARITY

- GENEROUS ACTIONS OR DONATIONS TO AID THE POOR, ILL, OR HELPLESS
- BENEVOLENT FEELING, ESPECIALLY TOWARD THOSE IN NEED
- LENIENCY IN JUDGING OTHERS; FORBEARANCE
- CHRISTIAN LOVE; AGAPE.
 - DICTIONARY.COM

DEFINING [AGAPE] LOVE

- ^{ESV} **1 JOHN 4:10** IN THIS IS LOVE, NOT THAT WE HAVE LOVED GOD BUT THAT HE LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON TO BE THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS.
- ^{NIV} **ROMANS 5:8** BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE FOR US IN THIS: WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.
- ^{ESV} **1 JOHN 3:16** BY THIS WE KNOW LOVE, THAT HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US ...
- ^{NAS} **JOHN 3:16** "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.



HOW CAN GOD COMMAND US TO
LOVE?

THE COMMANDS

- ^{ESV} **1 JOHN 4:20** IF ANYONE SAYS, "I LOVE GOD," AND HATES HIS BROTHER, HE IS A LIAR; FOR HE WHO DOES NOT LOVE HIS BROTHER WHOM HE HAS SEEN CANNOT LOVE GOD WHOM HE HAS NOT SEEN. ²¹ AND THIS COMMANDMENT WE HAVE FROM HIM: WHOEVER LOVES GOD MUST ALSO LOVE HIS BROTHER.
- ^{ESV} **MATTHEW 22:37** AND HE SAID TO HIM, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. ³⁸ THIS IS THE GREAT AND FIRST COMMANDMENT. ³⁹ AND A SECOND IS LIKE IT: YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.

THE ANSWER

- ^{NAS} **1 JOHN 4:9** BY THIS THE LOVE OF GOD WAS MANIFESTED IN US, THAT GOD HAS SENT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON INTO THE WORLD SO THAT WE MIGHT LIVE THROUGH HIM... ¹² NO ONE HAS BEHELD GOD AT ANY TIME; IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER, GOD ABIDES IN US, AND HIS LOVE IS PERFECTED IN US. ¹³ BY THIS WE KNOW THAT WE ABIDE IN HIM AND HE IN US, BECAUSE HE HAS GIVEN US OF HIS SPIRIT.
- ^{NAS} **ROMANS 5:5** AND HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT, BECAUSE THE LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN POURED OUT WITHIN OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO WAS GIVEN TO US.
- ^{NAS} **GALATIANS 5:22** BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE ...

SUMMARY

- ^{NIV} **1 JOHN 4:8** WHOEVER DOES NOT LOVE DOES NOT KNOW GOD, BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE.
- BUT TWO THINGS IN THE APOSTLE'S WORDS OUGHT TO BE NOTICED, — THAT THE TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IS THAT WHICH REGENERATES AND RENEWS US, SO THAT WE BECOME NEW CREATURES; AND THAT HENCE IT CANNOT BE BUT THAT IT MUST CONFORM US TO THE IMAGE OF GOD. AWAY, THEN, WITH THAT FOOLISH GLOSS RESPECTING UNFORMED FAITH. FOR WHEN ANY ONE SEPARATES FAITH FROM LOVE, IT IS THE SAME AS THOUGH HE ATTEMPTED TO TAKE AWAY HEAT FROM THE SUN.

➤ *CALVIN*

A decorative rectangular frame with a light gray gradient background. The frame is adorned with several realistic water droplets of various sizes, scattered primarily along the top and bottom edges. The word "CONCLUSIONS" is centered in the middle of the frame.

CONCLUSIONS

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

- ^{NAS} **PHILIPPIANS 2:12** SO THEN, MY BELOVED, JUST AS YOU HAVE ALWAYS OBEYED, NOT AS IN MY PRESENCE ONLY, BUT NOW MUCH MORE IN MY ABSENCE, WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING; ¹³ FOR IT IS GOD WHO IS AT WORK IN YOU, BOTH TO WILL AND TO WORK FOR *HIS* GOOD PLEASURE.
- ^{NAS} **GALATIANS 5:25** IF WE LIVE BY THE SPIRIT, LET US ALSO WALK BY THE SPIRIT.

GOD IN CHRIST IS OUR DELIGHT

- ^{NAS} **DEUTERONOMY 10:21** "HE IS YOUR PRAISE AND HE IS YOUR GOD, WHO HAS DONE THESE GREAT AND AWESOME THINGS FOR YOU WHICH YOUR EYES HAVE SEEN.
- ^{ESV} **1 PETER 1:8** THOUGH YOU HAVE NOT SEEN HIM, YOU LOVE HIM. THOUGH YOU DO NOT NOW SEE HIM, YOU BELIEVE IN HIM AND REJOICE WITH JOY THAT IS INEXPRESSIBLE AND FILLED WITH GLORY,
- ^{ESV} **2 CORINTHIANS 9:15** THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS INEXPRESSIBLE GIFT!

CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

1. IN THE LORD'S SUPPER WE REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE HIS SACRIFICE OF LOVE FOR US
2. IN THE LORD'S SUPPER WE REFLECT ON AND CELEBRATE OUR SALVATION
3. THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A MEANS OF GRACE THAT GROWS US IN OUR UNION WITH CHRIST
4. THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A FORETASTE OF THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB