

CREATION: Made in the Image of God

Why do Christians believe that humans are ‘made in the image of God’?

²⁶ Then God said, “And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small.” ²⁷ So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female... Genesis 1:26-27

Imago Dei is the Latin term for the belief that humans were created to resemble God. When you read the above verses, it is clear to see why Christians believe they are made in the image of God. This doesn’t mean that God has a human body, but refers to humans having the same moral, mental and social capacities; created to be, like God, perfect.

Importantly, humans are the only living creatures that have been made in the image of God. This shows us that God gives humans higher status than animals, also reflected on the command He gave for humans to rule and care for the natural world.



What does it mean for Christians to believe that humans are ‘made in the image of God’?

There are a number of implications for Christians based on this belief in *imago Dei*:

- If we are created sharing God’s qualities, we are representatives of God on earth. Therefore, we should use our free will to behave in a way that God would, in all circumstances.
- Our conscience provides guidance from God.
- We are created to be superior to all living things, however this brings responsibilities of stewardship and conservation; we are to care for and preserve the whole of nature.
- We are created like God to be in community with others, just like the members of the Trinity.
- Just like our Creator (God), we are able to create art, music and invent things, amongst the many incredible achievements’ humans have made.

TASKS:

- Explain *imago Dei* in your own words.
- Why do you think *imago Dei* is such an important belief to Christians?
- In your opinion, what is the most important implication of *imago Dei* for Christians and the lives they lead? Explain your answer.