

What you think about your origin informs whether you live a sense of purpose. Either you believe man was made in the image of God or you believe God was made in the imagination of man. Do you live with a sense that you have purpose beyond your own personal happiness? What is the difference between a life lived on purpose and a life without a sense of purpose? Which are you?

Have you settled the most fundamental questions of life?

- Where did I come from? (Correct answer: From God.) What are other possible answers?
- Why am I here? (Correct answer: For God.) What are other possible answers?
- Where am I going? (Correct answer: To God.) What are other possible answers?

What are the personal consequences of getting these answers wrong? What are the implications for a family who don't answer correctly? What kind of culture is created by a nation of people who get these answers wrong?

The Doctrine of Man – As God's highest creation, man was made to mirror God's image.

**1. I mirror God's image when I worship God as creator. (Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 8)**

Man is prone to think of himself too highly -- "I am God." – or too lowly – "I am an animal." What is the danger in each error?

Evolution reduces man to a lucky animal. Mysticism elevates man to a god. How has your view of yourself been affect by these influences?

What was the writer of Psalm 8 experiencing as he wrote? What do you sense when you read Psalm 8 and consider the works of God?

**2. I mirror God's image when I embrace my complementary gender identity. (Genesis 2:18, 22-27, 1Cor. 11:3)**

Is someone you know or love experiencing confusion related to gender identity? What do think contributes to the confusion? Do have genuine compassion for them?

Men and women are created equal but not the same.

Do you resist the biblically defined roles of men and women? Does it seem chauvinistic to you? How have these roles been abused and distorted?

How do the complimentary roles of men and women mirror the image of God to our children and the world?

List ways that a man can mirror God by embracing his role as "head" of his wife?

List ways that a woman can mirror God by being "helper" to her husband?

How would embracing God's complimentary roles in marriage improve your marriage?

When I refuse to live an autonomous, independent, isolated life; but rather embrace community I mirror God's image and experience life the way God intended. How are you intentionally embracing community outside of your family? What are the risk and benefits of living in community?

**3. I mirror God's image when I represent God by standing for life and justice. (Isaiah 1:16-17)**

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Is there any individual or group of people you have a lack of love for? Why?

How does THINKING of all people as image bearers of God affect your views on racism, abortion, and immigration?

What are you doing to create, cultivate, and protect human life? Describe a time when you recently stood against injustice? How does this mirror God's image?

Because God is creator, I can mirror the image of God by creating the culture around me. Are you creative? How could you use your gifts in the following areas to create a godly culture?

(Literature, music, art, story telling, photography, video, graphic design, interior design, construction, architecture, landscaping, fashion, etc.)

**4. I mirror God's image when I grow in conformity to the image of Jesus. (Romans 8:29)**

List ways that you are seeing growth in your conformity to Jesus. What has changed in you since last year?

How does suffering well, even to the point of death, mirror the image of God?

Are you prepared to outlive your body? Do you pay more attention to the health of your body or your soul? How does this reflect what you believe about how God has made you?

**Additional Scripture**

- Psalm 139:13-18
- 1Timothy 4:8
- John 3:3-10
- 2Thessalonians 5:23
- Mark 12:30
- 1Corinthians 15:42-57
- 2Corinthians 4:4
- Colossians 1:15
- Colossians 3:9-10