

## Creation and Humanity in the Modern Era, 1700-2000

### Created in the Image of God

What does it mean to be human?

*Genesis 1:26-27* – “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

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

Did sin take away our image bearing identity? What does sin do to this image in humanity?

*Genesis 9:6* – “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.”

*James 3:9* – “With it [our tongues] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.”

How does our image bearing identity get restored?

*Colossians 1:15-20* – “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”

### Historical Overview

Rene Descartes (1596-1650)

David Hume (1711-1776)

Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834)

Karl Barth (1886-1968)

“Man is the repetition of this divine form of life; its copy and reflection. He is this first in the fact that he is the counterpart of God, the encounter and discovery in God Himself being copied and imitated in God’s relation to man. But he is it also in the fact that he is himself the counterpart of his fellows and has in them a counterpart, the co-existence and co-operation in God Himself being repeated in the relation of man to man” (*Church Dogmatics*, 3/1, 185).

James Cone (1938-2018) and Liberation Theology

Rosemary Radford Ruether (1936 – ) and Feminist Theology

### **Reflection Questions**

How did the time of the Enlightenment of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries make room for a reinterpretation of creation and the *imago Dei*?

How did the American slavery system undermine the biblical presentation of the *imago Dei*?

Why do missions and evangelism reveal our view of humanity?

Why should evangelical continue to engage in the political discussion relating to abortion?

### **Preparation For Next Week:**

Read – <https://jgduesing.com/theology-in-the-modern-era-matthew-j-hall-on-the-trinity-and-jesus-christ/>(Attached to this document.)

### **Further Resources:**

Duesing, Jason and Nathan Finn. *Historical Theology For The Church*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2021.

Duesing, Jason. *Seven Summits in Church History*. Nashville, TN: Rainer Publishing, 2016.

Woodbridge, John D. and Frank A. James III. *Church History, Volume Two: From Pre-Reformation to the Present Day*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.

Litfin, Bryan. *Getting to Know The Church Fathers: An Evangelical Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016.