



RESTORATION: *Imago Dei*

1. What Is Restoration?

Restoration means the act of returning something to its intended, proper, or original state—often **improved, healed, or renewed** after damage, loss, or distortion.

Key Scriptures

Isaiah 58:12

"And those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; You will raise up the age-old foundations; And you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets in which to dwell."

Isaiah 61:4

"Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, they will raise up the former devastations, and they will repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations."

2. Purpose of This Series

God has prophetically spoken "**Restoration**" over our church.

We Are a House of Restoration

- God is restoring all things back to the Church
- We desire to see every truth of Scripture lived out
- We are asking God to restore:
 - Awareness of His Person, Power, and Presence
 - The tapped wells of revival
 - Our understanding of God and of ourselves

Restoration Brings Wholeness

- **Personal health** – spirit, soul, and body
- **Corporate health** – as the Body of Christ
- **Regional health** – to our neighbors
- **Biblical fullness** – not missing any part of God, His ways, or His works

3. Imago Dei – Restoring the Image of God

Imago Dei = Latin for "**Image of God**"

Humans were created to reflect and represent God in the world.

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.” ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

- In the ancient world, an “image” represented authority and rulership
 - **Exodus 20:4–5**: “You shall not make for yourself a carved image...”
 - God does not place statues of Himself—He places people
 - God forbids idols because He already made an image: humanity

First Things First:

Before restoring anything else, we must have a **healthy biblical view of the image of God.**

4. God Is Amazing

Psalms 145:3 – “Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.”

Exodus 15:11 – “Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”

Psalms 34:8 – “Taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusts in him.”

1 Timothy 1:17 – “Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Psalms 19:1 – “The heavens declare the glory of God.”

Group Discussion

What has amazed you about God?

5. First-Century Jews vs. Modern Christians

What Shaped Their View of God?

1. God’s Holiness

2. God as Covenant-Keeping Lord

3. God's Kingship

4. God's Justice

5. God's Presence in Daily Life

6. God's Corporate Concern

Summary (FirstCentury Emphasis)

Attribute	Then	Often Now
Holiness	Awe, reverence	Familiarity
Covenant	Communal, historical	Individual
Kingship	Present, public	Future, private
Justice	Expected	Avoided
Presence	Integrated	Compartmentalized
Salvation	Corporate	Individual

6. Early Church vs. Modern Church

Key Emphases of the Early Church

- 1. God's Grace in Suffering**
- 2. Victory Through the Cross**
- 3. Exclusive Allegiance to Christ**
- 4. Transforming Holiness**

5. Jesus the SoonComing King

6. Simple Spiritual Disciplines

7. God as Victor

Summary (Early Church Emphasis)

Attribute	Early Church	Often Now
Presence	Sustains in suffering	Removes suffering
Power	Through weakness	Through success
Lordship	Exclusive	Symbolic
Holiness	Transformational	Private
Eschatology	Hopefilled	Ignored
Disciplines	Ordinary means	Emotional moments
Victory	Real and Complete	Imaginary or spiritual

7. Reflection Questions

Group Discussion

1. *What aspects of God need to be restored in the church today?*
2. *What do you see in the early church that you wish you could see in the modern church?*

8. Closing Prayer Focus

As God restores our view of Him, **He restores us.**

Let's ask the Lord to restore our:

- **Awe of God**
- **Joy of salvation**
- **First love**

- **The Revelation of the Power of the Blood, the Name, the Cross, the Gospel**
-