

## **Unit 5: Our Theology**

### **Lesson 26:**




### **Looking Like God—**

### **The Imago Dei**

# Welcome to Confirmation Class

Confirm Series: Lessons 26-27

*As we wait to begin, take a moment to review our goals and expectations for class:*

<p><b>Lesson Goals</b> </p> <p>As a result of this lesson, I will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand the diverse expressions of being made in God's image.</li><li>• Recognize the moral and spiritual aspects of God's image.</li><li>• Explore the impact of sin and love's role in God's grace.</li></ul>	<p><b>Class Expectations</b> </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WORK HARD</li><li>• BE KIND</li></ul>	<p><b>For Fun!</b> </p> <p><i>Be ready to share one of the following responses:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is your favorite thing to do outside on a nice day?</li><li>• What are your spring break plans?</li><li>• Today is International Womens Day...who is a woman in your life that you admire and WHY?</li></ul>
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So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

### **Tentative Agenda**

5:00-5:05= *Welcome/Opening Prayer*

5:05-5:25= *Lesson 26: The Imago Dei*

**5:25-5:40= Break/Snack**

5:40-6:25= *Lesson 27: Sin and Grace*

6:25-6:30= *Wrap Up/Closing*

### **Opening Prayer**

Dear God, We come before You with open hearts, ready to explore the beauty of being made in Your image. Help us see how culture, gender, ethnicity, and our unique experiences shape our understanding of Your likeness in us. Guide us as we reflect on the moral and spiritual ways You've created us and help us to better imagine Your love and purpose for each of us. Lord, as we explore the concept of sin, may we gain understanding of its impact on ourselves and others, and how love leads us to Your grace. Teach us to always aim for Your heart, knowing that Your love covers all and guides us back to You. We ask for Your wisdom and clarity as we learn together today. In Jesus's name, Amen.

Kindness to someone  
Standing up for someone  
Helping someone in need  
Showing patience  
Loving your neighbor  
Creating something beautiful  
Being honest  
Forgiving someone  
Showing gratitude  
Listening actively  
Sharing with others  
Being a peacemaker

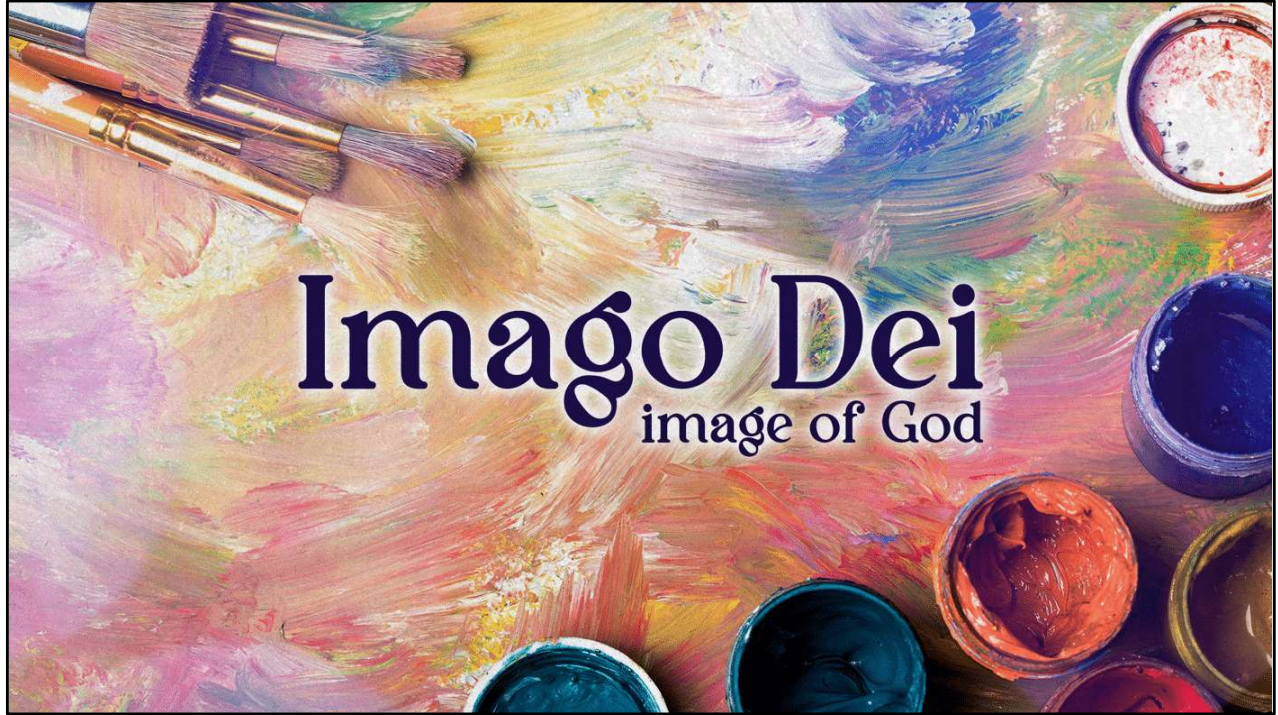
Showing empathy  
Doing something unexpected for someone  
Defending the weak or vulnerable  
Serving others without expectation  
Using your talents for good  
Telling the truth even when it's hard  
Encouraging someone  
Lifting someone up with kind words  
Showing humility  
Being selfless  
Promoting justice  
Practicing gentleness



- When discussing what it means to be “in the image of God,” it is important to consider the varying expressions of what that looks like: culture, gender, ethnicity, and social location all nuance what it means to be made in God’s image.
  - While we have already started to explore the various misconceptions about what God looks like and what he is and is not, today we will explore the scriptural expressions of what it means to be made in God’s image morally and spiritually.
  - We will also explore what we imagine God to look like, act, what God is concerned about, and so on!
- A lot of times when we think about God, we think of a big floating being in the clouds, or maybe just a booming voice and a bright light.
  - In the book of Genesis, it says that God created humanity in God’s own image.
  - We bear the image of God even if we look different or come from different backgrounds.
  - In some mystical and profound way, God looks like all of us.
  - All of us are made in the image of God and certainly reflect attributes of God’s character.
- This list of specific actions, traits, or behaviors all are reflections of God’s image.
  - These traits can be qualities that demonstrate God’s love, compassion, creativity, justice, and kindness—traits that are visible in us as we reflect God’s character.
- Think about...
  - Read through this list, which one stands out to you most—when have you or

someone you've seen demonstrated that action/trait/behavior.

- *Have each student share one example—challenge them to not share an example that another person has already shared.*
- Which action/trait/behavior do you think most represents you? Or is the easiest for you?
- Which action/trait/behavior do you think is the hardest on this list? Why?



- Imago Dei is a Latin phrase that means “image of God” and refers to how humans encompass the moral, spiritual, and intellectual elements of God.
  - This phrase comes from Genesis 1:27, which says, “God created humanity in God’s own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female, God created them.”
  - This means as humans, we have the ability to live out these characteristics of God.
  - Whenever we read about a characteristic of God, we can rest assured that we embody those same characteristics.
- There are a lot of texts that talk about Imago Dei.
  - We will be focusing on four of them today.
  - Read Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2:7, Psalm 8:4-5, Romans 8:28-30
- Now, read those texts again, this time substituting “man, he, she, person, human” with your own name
- Think about...
  - How did it feel to hear your name in the text?
  - What does this tell you about God?
  - How did it feel to read the text with your friend’s name inserted?
  - What difference does it make when we use our names in the text?
  - What does this tell you about the image of God?

## **Unit 5: Our Theology**

# **Lesson 27: Hitting the Mark— Sin and Grace**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- We are born into sin.
- The Bible is irrefutable. It has no error in it.
- Only when we break the Ten Commandments do we sin.
- Sin affects only the person who committed the sin, not other people.
- God always forgives us—no matter what.
- We receive grace through Jesus Christ.
- Our sins are forgiven as soon as we ask for forgiveness.



- There are many definitions and understandings of sin.
  - Some say that sin is breaking one of the Ten Commandments, while others say that sin is anything you do that is displeasing to God.
  - We will explore what it means to sin, its impact on self and others, and how love serves as the arrow to hit God’s “target” of grace.
- Do you agree with these statements, or disagree? Why?
  - People have been debating these statements for centuries—what helps you to determine if you agree or disagree?
- Isn’t it amazing to see how we can all be a part of the same faith, but have different understandings of sin and grace?
  - There are many factors that determine how we view sin and grace—but more important, our experiences help us to understand Jesus’s relationship to us—and why his sacrifice on the Cross is so important.



- What is SIN? What are examples of sin?
- Watch: Lesson 27's video on Amplify
- <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/video/unitedmethodistpublishinghouse/23051-confirm/23054-confirm/61041-unit-5-hitting-the-mark-sin-and-grace>
- User ID: [cedwards@kingswoodumc.com](mailto:cedwards@kingswoodumc.com)
- Password: Youthminmvnu!1

**Genesis 2:15-3:13**

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." 18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." 19 So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." 24 Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed. **The Temptation and Fall of Man** 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; 5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. 8 They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

**Romans 3:23**

23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;

**Romans 7:15-24**

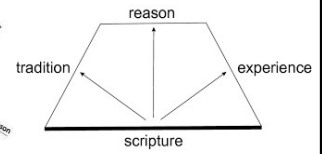
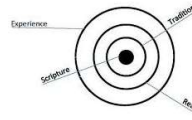
15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. 17 But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, 23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

- Read through these Scriptures.
  - These texts focus on sin and grace and can help us when we use the Wesleyan Quadrilateral to help think through various moral issues.
- Remember the Wesleyan Quadrilateral?
  - The Wesleyan Quadrilateral is made up of four different factors that we consider together in order to understand the Christian faith.
    - John Wesley believed these four "sides" illuminated the core of Christian faith and helped us unpack the "whys" and "hows" of Christianity.
    - What role do our experiences play in how we understand sin and grace?
    - Does our intellect or educational experience have any impact on how we explore our faith?
    - Wesley wanted us to consider these four things: Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience in order to think through the ways in which we respond to Jesus and the world around us.
- Sin and grace are often highly debated topics in the Christian faith and learning how to not only understand sin and grace, but also to navigate their affect on our lives and the lives of others is important.

**Scenario:**

**A man's wife is sick, and he cannot afford the medicine. Late one night, he breaks into a pharmacy and steals the medicine for her.**

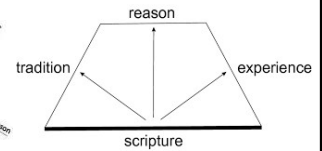
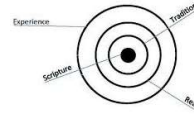
- *What would you do in this situation? Why?*
- *What influenced your response? (Your understanding of Scripture? Life experiences? Traditions? Or intellectual reason?) Explain.*



**Scenario:**

**Your friend asks to copy your homework because they didn't do it the night before.**

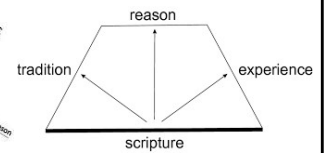
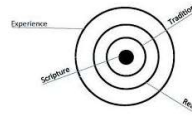
- *What would you do in this situation? Why?*
- *What influenced your response? (Your understanding of Scripture? Life experiences? Traditions? Or intellectual reason?) Explain.*

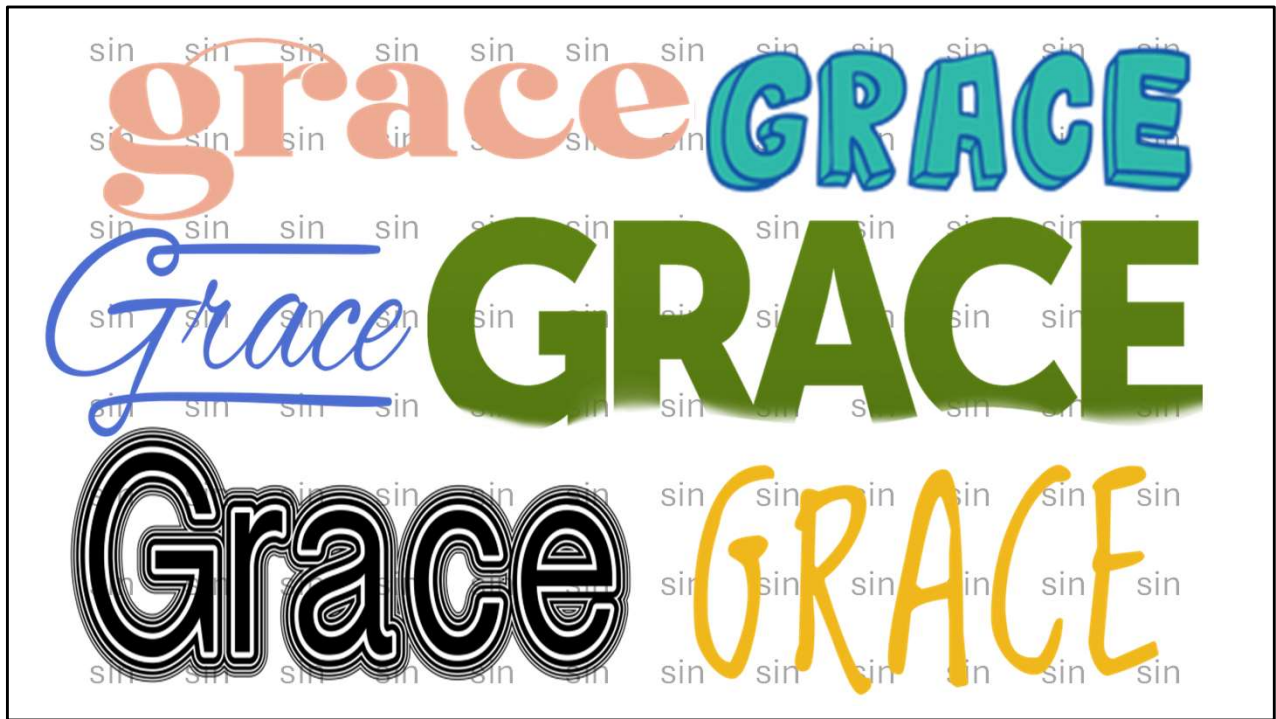


**Scenario:**

**You come back from class and find that someone has broken into your locker and stolen your belongings.**

- *What would you do in this situation? Why?*
- *What influenced your response? (Your understanding of Scripture? Life experiences? Traditions? Or intellectual reason?) Explain.*





**Grace Covers Sin art creation**



# Wrap-Up

Confirm Series: Lessons 26-27

*As we wrap up class, lets go over a few things together:*

## Objective

The objective of class today was...

- Understand the diverse expressions of being made in God's image.
- Recognize the moral and spiritual aspects of God's image.
- Explore the impact of sin and love's role in God's grace.

## Application

Today's lesson is important to me because...

## Closing Prayer

One confirmand will lead us in a closing prayer.

## Upcoming Dates

- Sunday, March 15
  - SNL
- Thursday, March 26
  - Culver's Dining for Dollars
  - Bernie's Book Bank volunteering
- HOLY WEEK
  - 3/29= Palm Sunday
  - 4/2= Holy Thursday
  - 4/3= Good Friday
  - 4/4= Youth-led Easter Eve
  - 4/5= Easter Sunday