Who are we? Imago Dei

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April 18, 2021

Human identity – relationship with God

- Created in the image [*tselem*] of God (Genesis 1:26)
- Likeness [*demut*] male and female
- A little lower than God (Psalm 8:5-6)

An Introduction to Christian Theology by Richard Platinga, Thomas Thompson and Matthew Lundberg

John Calvin
Institutes of Christian Religion

- Know God, Know Ourselves
- Mortal body, immortal soul
- Soul animates body
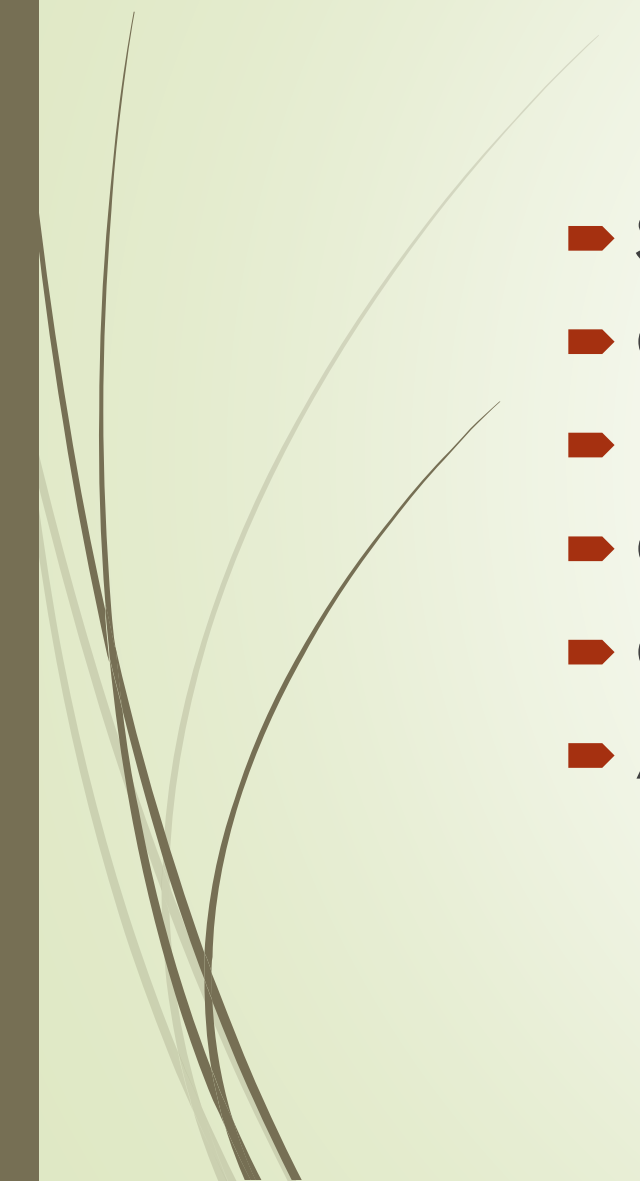- In need of restoration from Christ (pure righteousness)

First Adam disobedient
Last Adam obedient servant

- Coram Deo: Reflect God's character, concern
- Jesus focuses concern on others
- Agape self-giving love
- Selfless
- Equality, dignity, respect

Sin is rebellion against God

- Selfish desire
- Causing pain, destruction of others
- Robs freedom
- Calvin: Sin is evil, guilt that disfigures image of God
- Corrupts God's will for human beings
- Adam and Eve try to be like God

Spiritual Audacity
Abraham Joshua Heschel Story

- Prophets speak truth to power
- Walter Brueggemann – social justice, oppression
- Holocaust, racism great sins
- Prophets are truth tellers – God cares for suffering

Documentary by Martin Doblmeier, premier at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church on April 14, 2021.

Where is God?
Where are you?

- God is in search of man
- God is passionate about justice and love
- Transform suffering
- Image of God is having presence of God
- Something is asked of us
- Vision of world redeemed

Christ's Agency

- The Reformed faith teaches that Imago Dei was marred and broken by human disobedience

- However, in Christ we are restored to right relationship with God.

- The image of God, reflected in and through humanity, is only possible because of Christ.

- Christ's priorities, beliefs, actions and way of life become our expression of Imago Dei.

Breakout

▶ Group 1

How do we live as Christ lived when honoring the image of God in the other?   Matthew 20: 25-28

▶ Group 2

What does Imago Dei mean for us in forgiving our enemies?   Ephesians 4:31