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# SUMMER IN THE SYSTEMATICS

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# ANTHROPOLOGY

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# THE IMAGE OF GOD IN MAN

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“Anthropology” is the doctrine of man — and specifically, man’s relation to God and the world in which God has placed him.

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“... the earth is Yahweh’s, as well as its fullness, the world, and those who dwell in it.”

Psalm 24:1

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“God created man . . .”

Genesis 1:27

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“God created man in His own image, in the image of  
God He created him . . .”

Genesis 1:27

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# I. DEFINITIONS

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## 2. DISTINCTIONS

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### 3. RAMIFICATIONS

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# 4. LIMITATIONS

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# I. DEFINITIONS

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“ . . . for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His offspring.’ Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to suppose that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the craft and thought of man.”

Acts 17:28-29

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“God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that creeps on the earth.’”

Genesis 1:28

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“You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the animals of the field, the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, whatever passes through the paths of the seas.”

Psalm 8:6-8

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“ . . . put on the new man, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

Ephesians 4:24

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“Do not lie to one another, since you put off the old man with its evil practices, and have put on the new man who is being renewed to a full knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.”

Colossians 3:9-10

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“Come now, and let us reason together,’ says  
Yahweh . . .”

Isaiah 1:18

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“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

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“In Him, we also have been made an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.”

Ephesians 1:11

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“The image of God in man is man’s personal, spiritual and moral resemblance to God, including but not limited to, God’s communicable attributes (i.e., those perfections of the infinite God that can be possessed in a finite way by human beings).”

Rolland McCune

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Christ “is the image of the invisible God.”

Colossians 1:15

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“... the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

2 Corinthians 4:4

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“The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL.’  
The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.”

I Corinthians 15:45

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“The first man is from earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.”

I Corinthians 15:47

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He “emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men.”

Philippians 2:7

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“The fact that man is in the image of God means that man is like God and represents God.”

Wayne Grudem

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“Then Yahweh God took the man and set him in the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.”

Genesis 2:15

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“God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that creeps on the earth.’”

Genesis 1:28

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“... He brought each to the man to see what he would call it; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.”

Genesis 2:19

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“... put on the new man, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

Ephesians 4:24

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“... this is man’s innate sense of oughtness, i.e., his intuitive sense of morality and a constraining impetus (an ought, not simply a desire) to do right.”

Rolland McCune

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“... consciousness of his own moral relations together with a peculiar feeling about them.”

Augustus Strong

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“For when Gentiles who do not have the Law naturally do the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they demonstrate the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them . . .”

Romans 2:14-15

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“It is not good for the man to be alone.”

Genesis 2:18

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“... a man shall leave his father and his mother, and cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”

Genesis 2:24

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“God created man in His own image.”

Genesis 1:27

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“Let Us make man in our image, according to Our likeness.”

Genesis 1:26

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צֵלֶם (tselem)

“Image”

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דְּמוּת (demuth)

“Likeness”

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צֶלֶם (tselem)

“Image”

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“And all the people of the land came to the house of Baal and tore it down; his altars and his images they broke in pieces thoroughly . . .”

2 Kings 11:18

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“You also carried along Sikkuth your king and Kiyyun,  
your images, the star of your gods which you made for  
yourselves.”

Amos 5:26

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דְּמוּת (demuth)

“Likeness”

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“And she saw men portrayed on the wall, images of the Chaldeans portrayed with vermilion, girded with belts on their loins, with flowing turbans on their heads, all of them looking like officers, in the likeness of the Babylonians in Chaldea, the land of their birth.”

Ezekiel 23:14-15

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“When Adam had lived 130 years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.”

Genesis 5:3

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“The fact that man is in the image of God means that man is like God and represents God.”

Wayne Grudem

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“One ought to see in him or her a certain reflection of God . . . Man, then, was created in God’s image so that he or she might represent God, like an ambassador in a foreign country.”

Anthony Hoekema

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“Mankind is the representative of God on earth; to see a man or a woman is to see the only living creature made in the image of God.”

Owen Strachan

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“To see humanity is to see the likeness of God. The human race is a living testimony to its Creator.”

Owen Strachan

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“ . . . we need to view the imago Dei as a declaration as a declaration that God intended to create human persons to be the physical means through which he would manifest his own divine presence in the world.”

Marc Cortez

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## 2. DISTINCTIONS

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“... the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”

Colossians 1:15

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“ . . . even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

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“Christ is eternally the perfect reflection of God.”

Murray Harris

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“To say that Christ is the image of God is to say that in him the nature and being of God have been perfectly revealed —that in him the invisible has become visible.”

F.F. Bruce

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“We are made in the image of God. Christ is the ‘true’ image, the obedient Son who came to embody the rule of God, and we are right to see ourselves as a living picture of the divine.”

Owen Strachan

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“Fallen man in the image of God is so marred and depraved because of sin that only God’s grace can restore him.”

Robert Lightner

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“At the heart [of the Christian faith] stands the confession that God—the originator of everything right and good—himself became man.”

Mark Noll

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“ . . . if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

2 Corinthians 5:17

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“... we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 3:18

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|| ANTHROPOLOGY ||



“... those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son.”

Romans 8:29

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II ANTHROPOLOGY II



“... we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.”

Romans 8:23

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II ANTHROPOLOGY II



“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory . . .”

Philippians 3:20-21

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“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not been manifested as yet what we will be. We know that when He is manifested, we will be like Him.”

I John 3:2

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### 3. RAMIFICATIONS

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“Man lost something in the fall, but not the image of  
God.”

Robert Lightner

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# 4. LIMITATIONS

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“The image of God was marred by the Fall, but it was not obliterated; it was defaced but not erased.”

Rolland McCune

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“God’s image bearers were certainly marred with the curse,  
but the image and likeness of God, though distorted, was  
not obliterated.”

John MacArthur  
and Richard Mayhue

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“Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man.”

Genesis 9:6

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“For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God, but the woman is the glory of man.”

I Corinthians 11:7

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“But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God.”

James 3:8-9

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“The best way to understand the image of God is to contrast humans with animals . . . Several differences are obvious.”

Rolland McCune

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“(I) Self-consciousness. Animals may be conscious, but only man is self-conscious. An animal cannot objectify itself, making itself the object of its own thoughts. It cannot distinguish itself from its sensations or from other objects or beings.”

Rolland McCune

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“(2) Concepts and language. Man can think about and communicate abstract ideas or concepts. Animals, though able to replicate sounds, cannot reflect upon or communicate abstractions.”

Rolland McCune

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“(3) Judgments and reason. Animals, unlike men, cannot judicially compare (‘this is like that’), rationally associate (‘this follows from that’) or generalize.”

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“(4) Self-determination. Animals do not consciously formulate purpose or self-consciously move toward a pre-planned goal, neither are they capable of self-improvement.”

Rolland McCune

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“(5) Conscience. Animals have no innate sense of right or wrong, no ethics or controlling moral standard.”

Rolland McCune

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“... unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed.”

2 Peter 2:12

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|| ANTHROPOLOGY ||





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II ANTHROPOLOGY II



“Mankind is made in the image of God. The human race may recognize, celebrate, hate, or ignore this truth. It matters not. The human race is the race made to display the glory of God in all the earth in a special way.”

Owen Strachan

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