

IN WHOSE IMAGE?

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make man in Our image, according to our likeness."

In Genesis 1:26, God stated His intent. The next verse records that "God created man in His own image." Imagine that, man was created in the image of God. That truth forevermore settles the relationship. God is the creator; man is the being that was created.

In light of the fact that **God** created man and in light of the fact that He created man in **His** image, I find it interesting to listen to some people. Have you ever heard someone say "I don't want to serve a God who punished people; I want to serve a God who loves people?" I have heard that on more than one occasion.

If we see some aspect of God's character to which we object, we just do away with it. With a smile and a wave of the hand we say "I don't want a God like that." The end result is that we have "attempted" to create God in our image. We decide what He should be like and so we discard anything we don't want.

Maybe we have not considered that such is the very nature of idolatry. Pagan idolatry decides what God looks like and goes to work. Aaron followed that path and built a golden calf. In other cultures, the image may be different but the process is the same.

If you are one of those who thinks "I don't want a God who _____ (fill in the blank with whatever part of God's character you wish to deny), I urge you to consider this. **He** is the creator, you are the creature. I do not have the right to remake God in my image. Or, as Paul put it in Romans 9:20, "who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, 'why make me like this', will it?" He is not in our image, we are in His.

--Ron Harper--

Complacent Christianity

“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ...” 2 Peter 3:18

Our world is uncomfortable with being uncomfortable. Even the most minor inconvenience seems to drive an insane person crazy. Five minutes is too long to wait for a hamburger and fries. Working outside on a hot summer's day is unbearable. The thought of walking down the driveway to get the mail is exhausting. We simply do not like to be inconvenienced or uncomfortable.

But when was the last time we evaluated our standing with Christ? The reality is several of us have become comfortable in the way that we are living. The same world that the Lord has warned us from associating with is the world with which we have fallen in love. We come to church and worship our Lord but return home to watch filth and vile entertainment. We have become comfortable with the reality of sin. We believe the Bible speaks to everyone else except our own selves.

If I told you that you are a sinner, that language would scarcely make your pulse increase. You know you are a sinner, you've been told you are a sinner, and you have attempted to no longer be a sinner. But what if I told you that you are evil? That has a different ring to it. If God is good because he is sinless then I am evil because I have sin. How comfortable and complacent have we gotten with being evil? The fact is many of us simply do not care.

Peter admonishes the persecuted church to grow in two areas—grace and knowledge. Some of us are so consumed with grace that we have forgotten to learn the reason that grace exists. Other of us are so consumed with the intricate details of the Bible that we have forgotten the overall theme from Genesis to Revelation. The command here is to grow. We cannot grow if we are complacent in our own status with Christ or lack thereof.

The attitude that we know everything will be our downfall. We must humbly and sincerely search the scriptures to learn and understand the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Joshua Houston

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Selma Boyd, Ernestine Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Sue Reeves, Odell Grissom, Nora Fann, Virgie Leonard, Kaylie Joy Pendgrast, Carolyn Dunnivant, Louis Wilson, Kay Jennings, Marvin Miller, Harry Summer, June Jernigan, Jennifer Miller

SHUT INS:

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard, Tommy & Shirley Bibb, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Melba & Jeanie Young

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

***MEMBERS**

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Lizzie Bush, Sue Reeves*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Margaret Davidson*, Virgie Leonard*, Ernestine Taylor*, Laura Wisner*, Lillian Whitworth

SMYRNA: Geri Melton*

WOODBURY: Jeweldean Hall*

TN VETERAN'S HOME: Edna Vance*

MILITARY:

Tony Berry

NEWS & NOTES

- Welcome to our new members! **John & Lynda Gayle Houston** to Salem Creek.
- **Visitation Team 2** will have a meeting today in the large classroom after classes.
- **Nicaragua** meeting today at 12:30.
- **Rescheduled - Men's camp out and fishing trip** Friday night, April 28th, at Normandy Lake. Please sign the list in the foyer if you plan to attend. The directions are by the sign-up sheet.
- **Graduation meal** is planned for Sunday, May 7th.
- A **Church picnic** is planned for Saturday, June 10th at Pavilion 6 Barfield Crescent Park from 4 – 8pm. We will start eating at 5pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer that includes a place to list the item(s) you plan to bring. Please see Larry Benson if you have any questions.
- **Be sure to check the bulletin board for area activities and updates.**

Salem Creek church of Christ
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Email: office@salemcreekcoc.org

We're on the web!
www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Morning Worship	9:00 am
Bible Classes	10:15 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm

Wednesday

Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May)	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
 Jim Hatfield
 Jon Holland
 Andy Mitchell
 Randall Phifer
 Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Rick Acklin	Rick Corum
Larry Benson	Andy Melton
Michael Bowman	Brian Melton
Craig Buckner	Alan Pepper
Joe Byars	Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

April 16, 2017

Sunday	AM worship	299
	Bible classes	187
	PM worship	145
	Contribution	\$7,504.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	141
Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	16

When county schools are closed due to inclement weather A.M. Ladies class will be cancelled

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!

We were honored by your presence!

GREETERS

*Please be at the door
 30 minutes prior to service*

April 23

Jerald & Peggy Hill

April 30

Dianne Stroop

Joyce Jenkins

