



Honor the Image

A note to the leader

Obviously, your group is made up of perfectly calm, reasonable people who have never once raised their voice about a public issue. For everyone else's groups, here's a reminder: this series covers contentious social issues, so engage with love, humility, and respect.

Connect

Describe a time when someone made you feel really special and valued. How did that experience impact you?

Review

Take a couple of minutes to review some of the main ideas from the sermon:

1. **God's image.** Every human being is made in the image of God and possesses inherent dignity that cannot be earned or taken away, regardless of their abilities, circumstances, or background. Honoring God's image means treating every person with respect while also recognizing their responsibility and helping them exercise it.
2. **Israel's Law.** God gave Israel's laws to teach his people how to reflect his holiness and love their neighbors, demonstrating what a society that honors human dignity could look like. Although Christians must interpret these laws through Jesus rather than apply them directly to modern society, they reveal God's priorities and provide wisdom for addressing today's social issues.
3. **Our Culture.** Christians are called to apply biblical principles of human dignity and neighbor-love to today's social issues, even when they disagree about the best solutions. Rather than aligning completely with a political party, we should approach difficult conversations with humility and follow Jesus' example of honoring every person.

Read Genesis 1:26-28

Make Observations: After reading Genesis 1:26-28 out loud, give your group a few minutes to make observations on their own. Then go around the group and share the things you observed and discuss them.

Discuss

1. Being made in God's image means we each have dignity and responsibility. What happens if we fail to show someone dignity? What happens when we deny someone responsibility?
2. Where have you seen someone do a really good job of showing dignity to someone they strongly disagree with? Where have you seen the opposite?
3. The message said that honoring someone as God's image means protecting their room to take responsibility. Who in your life needs to be empowered with responsibility rather than having it taken from them? What would it look like to help empower them?
4. The sermon challenged the common assumption that the Old Testament law is irrelevant to Christians today, but also pointed out that you can't just apply it directly to today's context. So, how does Israel's law help us think through social issues in our day?
5. The sermon said, "The Bible gives us principles. It doesn't hand us a policy manual." How does this idea make conversations about contentious social issues healthier? How does it make them harder?
6. Jesus is the ultimate image of God. How can we model the way of Jesus, who went to the people everyone else kept at a distance? What are some ways you can close the distance to other people you might normally stay away from?

Apply

Break up into smaller groups of three, and respond to these questions: After this discussion, who (an individual or people group) in your life do you need to see or treat with greater dignity? What is one specific action you could take to honor them as someone made in the image of God?

Pray

Individually, take a couple of minutes to ask God if there is anyone in your life you have mistreated. Then, as people come to mind, silently confess and ask for God's forgiveness. After a couple of minutes, have one person in the group close in prayer, asking God to help us see the image of God in each person that we encounter this week.