



Imago Dei

Image of God. That's what separates us from the other animals God created.¹ It is unbelievable and utterly amazing, but true. It is such a core aspect of who we are, and yet remains unexplored or misunderstood by many. What does it really mean and how does it affect us? Grasping these important concepts about who we are can change the face of the church today.

There have been many attempts to explain what *Imago Dei* means. Some have reasoned that being made in the image of God means that we have His characteristics. That is to say, some claim we are compassionate, caring, loving because we were made in the image of God and He is those things. Some have reasoned that the image of God simply means that we are imprinted with a soul, a little slice of eternity that exists within us. Some have speculated that the meaning can be found in the context of the creation story. That is to say, God's directive to us after He made us "in His image" to go forth, be fruitful, and have dominion over the earth is directly linked the gift of His image. To be in His image, then, is to have dominion over the earth the same way that God has dominion over us . . . with self-sacrificing love. That means we have a dual responsibility that comes with the image of God: one to the Creator and one to His creation.

Perhaps the truth is found in one of these or maybe a synthesis of the three above interpretations, but whatever the case there is one thing that is certain. Being made in God's image separates us from the rest of creation and gives us a purpose. Our purpose is to let His image rise to the surface within each of us while our image recedes into the background. -Dan

**Our vision:
Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known**

Smoking Guns

There are many ways that the Evil One seeks to entrap us. But everything's OK in moderation right?

I have heard it said before, "Guns don't kill people, people kill people." I find that interesting. Very true. People kill people. Guns just make it easier. The same is true of positions we put ourselves in spiritually. Bars don't get people drunk, but they sure do make it easier. Superficial understandings of marriage don't cause divorce, but they sure make them easier. Biblical illiteracy does not cause people to steer clear of God's will for their lives, but it sure doesn't help people grow closer to Him.

The issue here is one of rationalization versus passionate pursuit. Do you rationalize giving the Evil One time and opportunity to lead you away from Christ or do you passionately pursue Godly purity in your life? Do you ask how close to the fire is too close or do you run from the danger of it the way Joseph ran from the situation that sought to entrap Him?

As Christians we do not point fingers or judge one another, but we do encourage one another to "raise the bar" morally, to break free from a life of nothing more than sin management, and to promote the truth that a passionate pursuit of God's moral purity is a far greater one than that of self gratification. Need I say it? Don't go to the gun store. -Dan

Thank You!

Dear Church family,
I appreciate so much all the prayers for my knee replacement surgery that went very well and for rehab that was (and is) very good.
-Oscar Miller

Dear Family at Elmwood,
Words cannot express the love we have for you. Thank you for supporting us with prayers, hugs, smiles, encouraging words and "Pocket Peter" hearts! You will never know the peace you gave to us at a time that could have been very stressful. Peter is home and doing very well-bored, but doing very well. All because of your prayers! God bless you!
In Christian love, Bill, Carol & Peter Bell

Farewell Reception for Dan Cooke June 23, 2-4 PM, CSC

Join Dan Cooke and students on June 23, from 2:00 until 4:00 PM, at the CSC, 115 Waldron St., West Lafayette, for a come 'n go farewell reception to honor his 5 years of service on the Purdue campus. Dan will be leaving to begin a new job in Texas at the end of the month. Questions? Call Mindy Hart at 497-2481.



Graduation Open Houses

Dan Cable • June 9, noon to whenever! • (home) 3581 W. St. Rd. 18, Delphi

Rachel Walters • June 9, 1-4 PM • (home) 936 Brookridge Ct., Lafayette

Vacation Bible School



Let's corral 80 kids at Avalanche Ranch.
August 8, 9, 10 • 6:00-8:00 PM
August 11 • 9:00-11:00 AM
August 12 • 5:00-7:00 PM
YOU can help make it happen.



Our sympathies to **Krista & Tim Swensen** on the death of Krista's father, **Leonard Schultz**. Rick and Doris went to Ohio for the funeral.

Dovie Hurst's sister, **Virginia Thomson, 86**, of Mountain View, Arkansas, died last Wednesday. After attending her sister's funeral, she will visit with another sister in Senatobia, Mississippi, for a week. Our sincere sympathies to Dovie and her family.



The food pantry is in need of personal items: **soap, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, and toilet paper.**

-John Stafford

New Address

Josh & Gina Boyd
3528 Indianbrook Dr.
Lafayette 47909
Ph: (same) 471-1258

June 3, 2007
Class: 182 Worship: 270
Contribution: \$10,096
Budget: \$8,550



Holy Coincidence Batman...

I'll get to my childhood momentarily. First, let me say I am not excited about the announcement of Dan's departure. Dan has been with us for nearly 5 years and I believe he has done a great job with the campus ministry. His scholarship and respect for the Word is obvious in all he does and I believe he has helped the students learn to drink deeply from God's wisdom. I will miss Dan's complaints about the weather (in the winter) and his southern colloquialisms – hey y'all, I still know how to speak that way, too. Dan has also shared some great messages with the whole church family and his emphasis on living life in community must remain at the top of our efforts. I do wish Dan all the best in his continued ministry to college students. I was once a student at North Texas State and I guarantee the ministry is much needed there! Dan: thanks for sharing your life and ministry with us and may you always have fond memories of being with the family in the cold, white, north...we will keep fond memories of you.

Yes, I was a fan of Batman when I was a child...no, I have not kept that interest alive (I think I have seen one of the modern Batman movies), but many of the "one liners" stuck in my mind and I use some from time to time. After Rick's announcement about Dan's leaving, one of our astute members said, "Oh so that's why you brought Phil in till the end of the year." I wanted to say, "Nope, that was a Holy Coincidence, Batman," but I didn't. I knew that I would need to help with some of the roles that Gayle had been covering, so the elders and I were thinking it would be good to have support for more than three months. We really didn't know when we asked Phil to stay through December that Dan would be leaving us. Obviously, God knew what we needed and personally, I don't believe in coincidences when God is involved... and that is all the time! We are so blest to have a loving God who knows what we need before we ask Him. I am so glad He continues to provide for us in advance.

Where do we go from here? The main search focus needs to remain on the preacher. Once he and his family are in place, we can move forward with a campus minister search. In the meantime, the elders have asked the campus committee, the youth administrative committee, Phil and me to get together and work out the details of how all the various youth and campus ministry bases will be covered. As you all know, summer is crazy for the youth ministry and fall is a very busy time for the campus ministry; we must do all we can to be ready to minister to our returning students as well as the incoming new students. Please keep praying!

– Lee

Prayer Concerns...

Dottie Roberts was hospitalized over the weekend with an infection and had some minor surgery. She is now at home recuperating...Continue praying for **Bill Adams, Peter Bell, Oka LeMaster, Joe Bailey, Sue Sill, Oscar Miller, Hattie Coffel, Brian Beeler, David Perkins, Lorena Poindexter, Jeanette Tidrick, Georgia Woodland, Virginia Webb, Kathy Ciota, Charles Carter, Charles Moore, Jo Gelfand, Willie Batts, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Willard Farmer, Valley Stockton, Paul & Argie Verett, Ruth Marks, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Carrie High, Irene Fox, & Burnell Gulden.**



Serving in our military: **Jeremy Crable & Michael Bryenton** in Afghanistan; **Philip Devine, Joshua Thompson** (*grandson of Mary Lou Baugh*), in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea.

We Need Volunteers!

The 4th Monday of every month Elmwood provides a meal—main dish, salad, vegetable or bread, and dessert—to the homeless who are housed overnight at **Lafayette Urban Ministry**. With vacations and other summer plans, it is sometimes difficult to get enough volunteers to provide this service. If you'd like to help with this ministry this summer—June, July or August—call the church office at 447-2874. There are many at Elmwood who have done this and are always blessed by the experience.

One or two people are also needed to teach the combined 1st & 2nd grade class on Sunday mornings for July and August. Call the church office or talk to Lee Porter if you would like to help.



- June 6, 7 PM...**Bible class for all
- June 9, noon-?...**Graduation Open House for Dan Cable, 3581 W. St. Rd. 18, Delphi
- June 9, 1-4 PM...**Graduation Open House for Rachel Walters, 936 Brookridge Ct., Lafayette
- June 10, 6 PM...**Abbreviated Worship at Elmwood
- June 10, 7-9 PM...**City-wide worship at the Long Center, in downtown Lafayette

Read:
I Kings 16-II Kings 11;
Matthew 11-14

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 25: June 18-24

WE THREE KINGS

Recently we viewed royalty as Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain in her designer dress and her magnificent hat watched the Kentucky Derby. Later we saw her in a white gown and tiara receiving military leaders, sports heroes, and other celebrities in a gala dinner at the White House. One almost wonders if her fairy godmother was not hiding behind a curtain to make sure that all went well and that the coach would not turn into a pumpkin even if the party continued past midnight.

When we look at the kings of Israel, we see a very different picture of royalty. Saul, David, and Solomon are memorable characters from childhood Sunday School, but it would take a strong teacher to push further into the books of Kings and Chronicles. With few exceptions, the kings of Israel and Judah are not exemplary for either children or adults. The histories of their reigns almost become clichés. They ascend to the throne, do “what is evil in the sight of Lord,” and pass away, little known and little mourned.

If we remember anyone’s name from this wayward bunch, it is probably that of Ahab. He gets more space than others not because of his virtues but because he is more inventive than the others in finding ways to do the wrong things.

The question that arises from the sordid histories of the kings is how did so many people, one after another, miss the point of being one of God’s chosen?

The question is more than just historical speculation. When we contemplate their failings—greed, jealousy, murder, violence to name a few—we find their stories very similar to what we see on the front pages of our newspapers on a daily basis.

It is not just the ancient kings who go astray. We all have some of their royal blood in our veins. —Rob Smith