



Unity and Diversity in the Local Church

Lesson 3: The Image of God in Our Unity & Diversity

I. Introduction

- A. Importance of Understanding God's Image:
 - 1. God's Glory
 - 2. Our Maturity in Christ

- B. The Image of God in 4 Layers:
 - 1. Layer 1: The Image of God from Creation & Our Equality
 - 2. Layer 2: The Image of God from creation & Our Value
 - 3. Layer 3: The Image of Christ from Redemption & Our Corporate Value
 - 4. Layer 4: The Image of Christ from Redemption & Our Forbearing

II. The Image of God in Creation Makes Our Value ...

- A. Equal (Gen. 1:26-28) - Layer 1
 - Implication: Peers, not Projects

- B. Derived, Not Earned (Gen. 1:26-28) - Layer 2
 - Implication: Treating Others Rightly
 - The Image of God in Creation: "Mankind's uniquely blessed and inherently valued capacity to display God's glory"

III. The Image of Christ From Redemption Makes Our Value Supernaturally ...

- A. Corporate (1 Cor. 12:26; Eph. 1:16; Gal. 5:13) - Layer 3
 - Implication: Seeing, Cherishing, and Pursuing Our Unity Before Our Diversity

- B. Progressive (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29, 30) - Layer 4
 - Implication: Joyfully Forbearing With Others in the Church Until We're the Church

IV. Conclusion

- A. Praise God for Our Unity and Diversity (Eph. 1:15-16)
- B. Keep Working on Perfecting Your Image in Christ (Phil. 2:12)

Lesson Schedule

- Lesson 1: Diversity? Unity? For God's Sake!
- Lesson 2: How God Builds Unity and Diversity
- Lesson 3: The Image of God in Our Unity and Diversity**
- Lesson 4: God's Purposes for Similarity in the Church
- Lesson 5: Working Through Disunity
- Lesson 6: Counsel for Christians in the Majority
- Lesson 7: Counsel for Christians in the Minority