



# Image Bearers (Imago Dei)



GENESIS 1:26-31



WHAT IS “IMAGE”?

# What is an “Image”? “Likeness?”

## IMAGE

- Part of our humanity
- Can't be lost

## LIKENESS

- Not part of humanity
- It lost because of sin
- Can be regained again

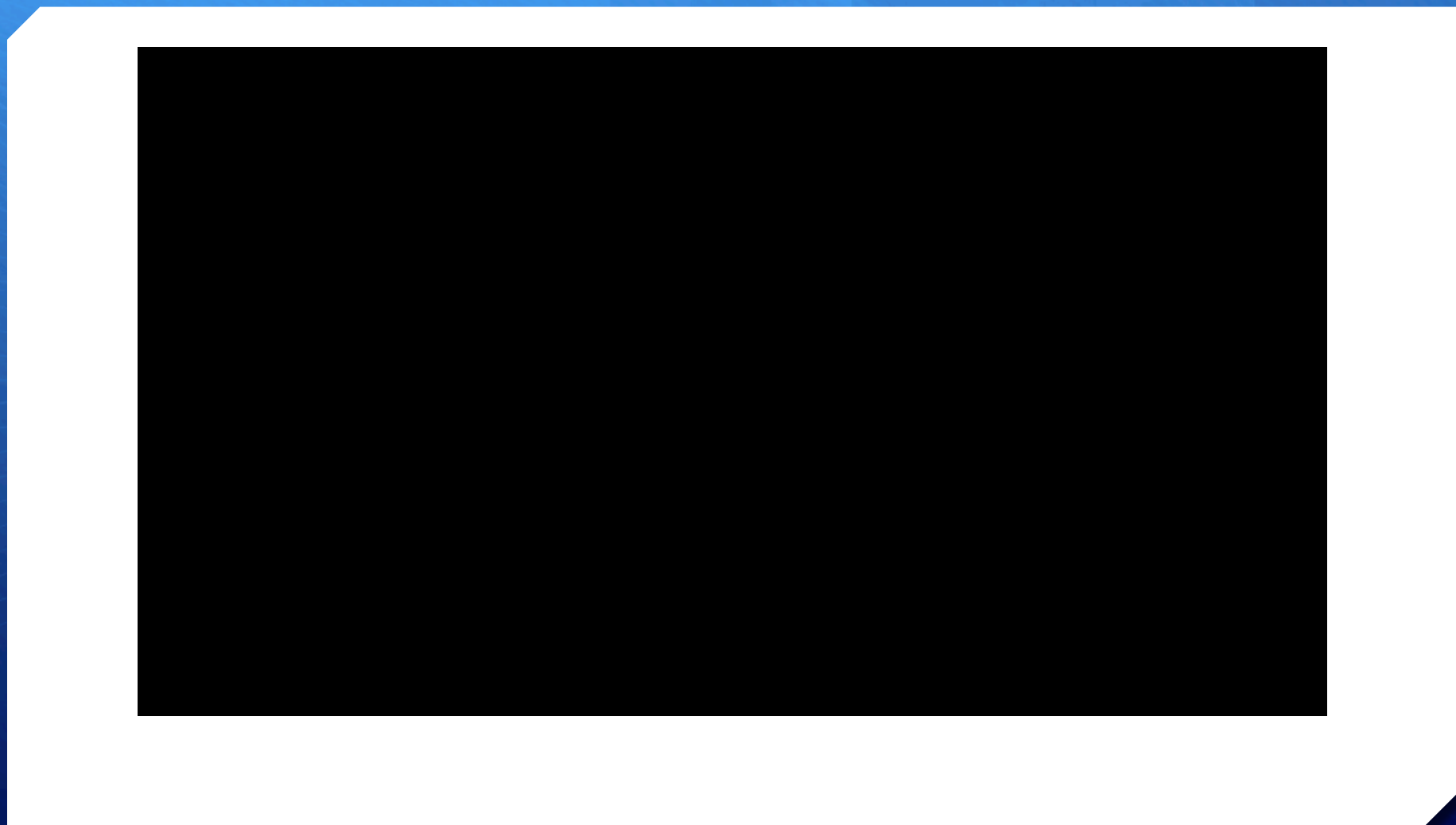
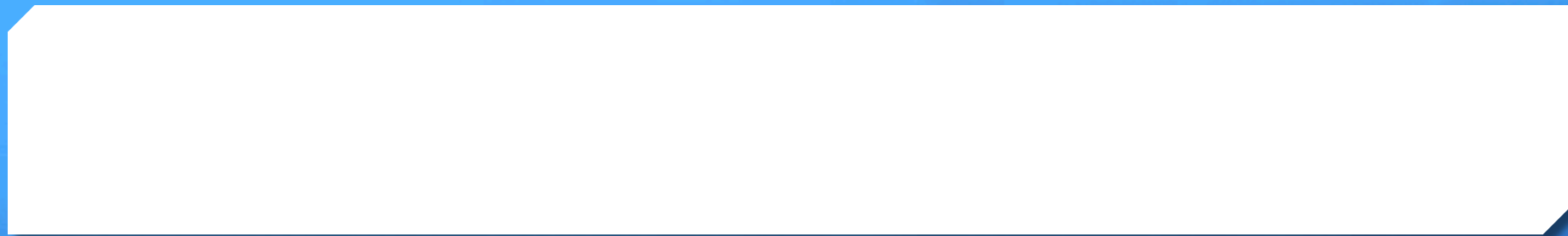




## What does it mean to be “made by God?”

What did He include?

What did he leave out?



# Genesis 1:26-31

- + How does this passage describe the person of God?
- + How does that impact the creation of people?
- + What does that mean for you and me?

# The Trinity!!!

**ONE GOD  
THREE PERSONS**

---

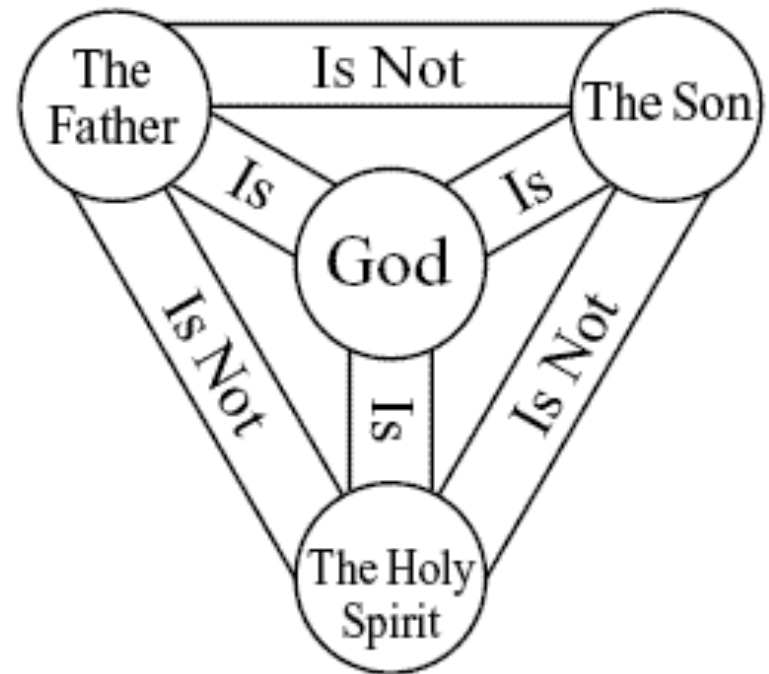
**TRINITY**

## Quick Review:

God is three persons (Matt 3:16-17)

Each one is fully God (Acts 5:3-4;  
Col 2:9)

There is only one God (Deut. 6:4)



# Huh?

- + Wait, I'm confused. What does that have to do with being an "image bearer?"
- + I didn't wanna do math today!



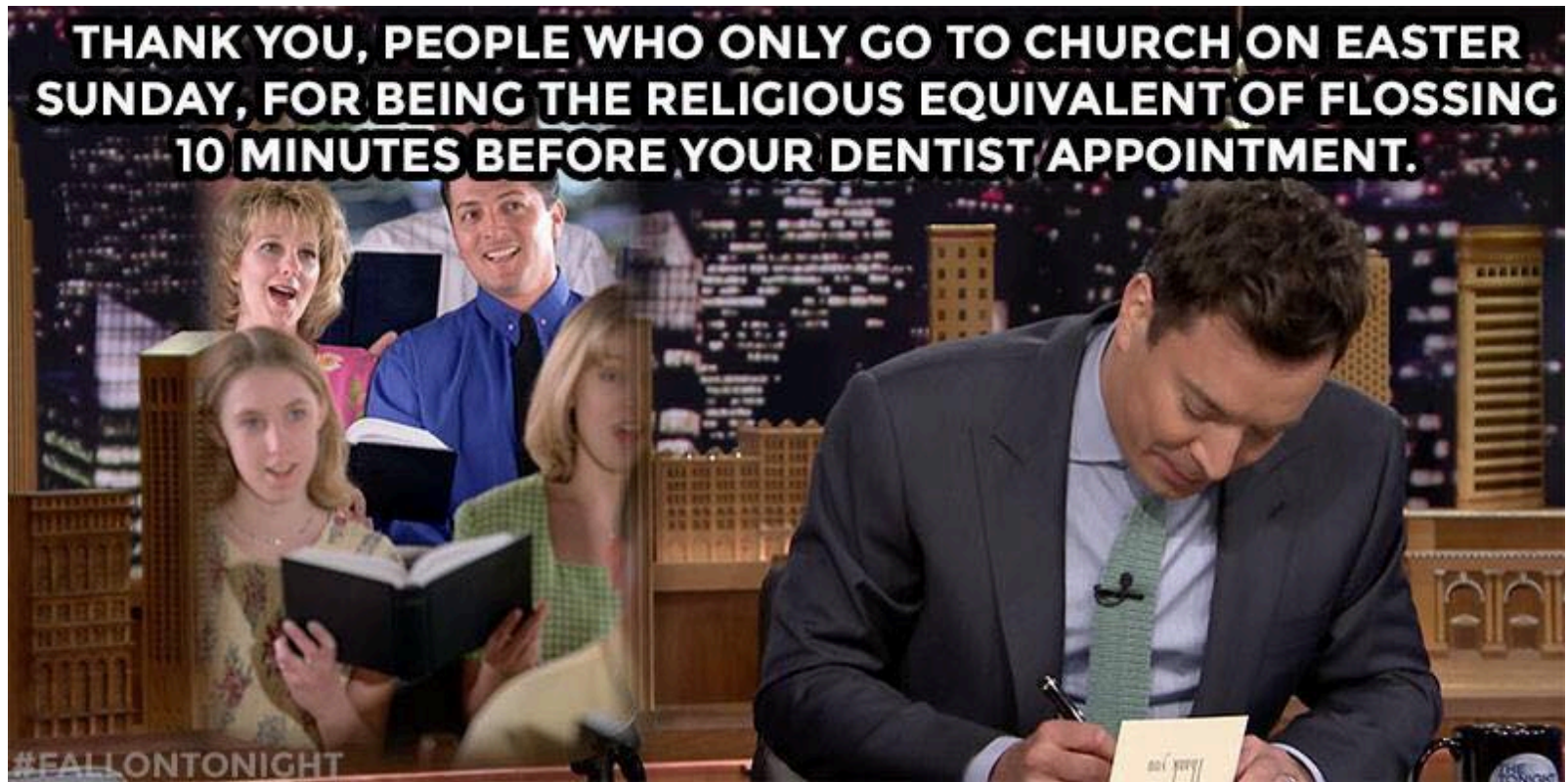
# We are all created with an image that represents the Trinity

- + God is three Persons
- + God made humans in His image
- + But also in the image of the distinct Persons of Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- + -If we are to understand what it means to be made “in the image of God”, than we have to consider all Persons of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
- + “being in the image of God is to be understood as a mirroring of the Father, a mirroring of the Son and a mirroring of the Holy Spirit” – T.A. Smail



We reflect God as one,  
and God as three.

# MEMES!

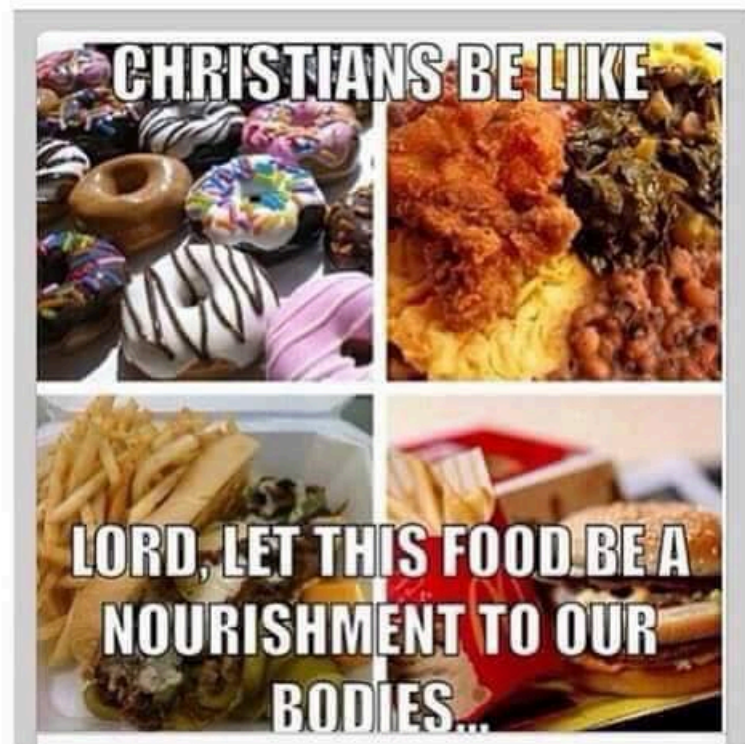
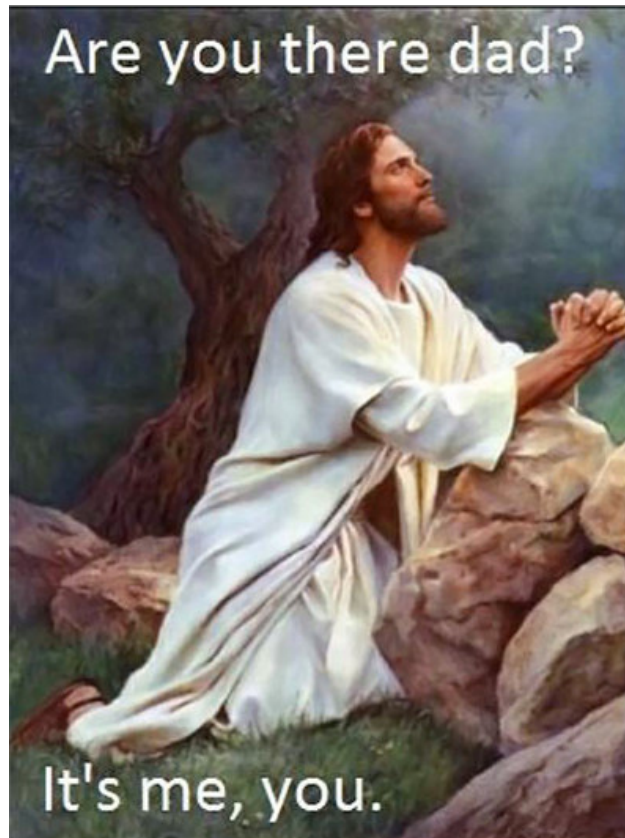


KJ-52! (Born June 26, 1975)  
(real name is Jonah Kirsten Sorrentino)





# JOKE JOKE JOKE



WHOOT!





# So Now What?

- + Since we are created in the image of a Three-in-One God, there is more to our image than just representing “God”
- + Father has distinct attributes
- + Son has distinct attributes
- + Holy Spirit has distinct attributes
- + How does that relate to our lives?

# The Father's Purposeful Initiation of Love

## Father

- + Leading with Love
- + Relationship with Israel in Old Testament
- + Sending Christ as a man (John 3:16)
- + His relationship with believers since Jesus

# The Father's Purposeful Initiation of Love

## Father

- + Leading with Love
- + Relationship with Israel in Old Testament
- + Sending Christ as a man (John 3:16)
- + His relationship with believers since Jesus

## You and Me

- + Do we intervene with love into the lives of others?
- + Oppression and abuse are opposite of this
- + How do we lead? With love, or oppression?
- + "image of the Father is the image of the leader" (Smail)

# The Son's Willing Responsiveness

## Son

- + Was sent by Father, did not send Himself
- + Has authority from the Father but is under the Father
- + Obeys the Father with a willing attitude

# The Son's Willing Responsiveness

## Son

- + Was sent by Father, did not send Himself
- + Has authority from the Father but is under the Father
- + Obeys the Father with a willing attitude

## You and Me

- + We must be in relationships where we are second, not first
- + How am I putting others first in relationships?
- + What is my attitude like in obedience?

# The Holy Spirit's Creative Fulfillment

## The Holy Spirit

- + Took what was done by the Son and Father and achieved the ultimate purpose
- + Applies the plan of the Father and the death of the Son to the process of salvation

## You and Me

- + Live in a way that moves those around us closer to what God has planned for them
- + How do we lead people closer to God?
- + Do we help others struggle with spiritual questions that bring them closer to God's goals?



# The Holy Spirit's Creative Fulfillment

## The Holy Spirit

- + Took what was done by the Son and Father and achieved the ultimate purpose
- + Applies the plan of the Father and the death of the Son to the process of salvation

# RELATIONSHIPS!

- + Ultimately, our image of God is based in relationships
- + The Trinity is built on relationships between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- + If we are in His image, then we fulfill our image through our relationships

# Isaiah Nengean *"The Image of God as the Image of the Trinity"*

- + "likeness to God is not reflected through human individual activity, nor as an isolated human life but is attained through human communal interaction in loving relationships" (97)
- + "implies human beings standing in need of and also responding to each other and only in this communal perspective are humans in the image of God "(97)
- + "sociality is an indispensable facet of the image of God" (97)



What about sin?

# How does sin impact our image?

- + Our image is founded in relationships
- + Which means we have the ability to build up and love
- + But also are able to hate and degrade others

# How does sin impact our image?

- + Our image is founded in relationships
  - + Which means we have the ability to build up and love
  - + But also are able to hate and degrade others
- + James 3:8-10 "but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so."



- + James warns us that we are able to degrade and negatively impact others in relationships

- + James warns us that we are able to degrade and negatively impact others in relationships
- + By adding “in the image of God” James adds extra reason for refraining from cursing others

- + James warns us that we are able to degrade and negatively impact others in relationships
- + By adding “in the image of God” James adds extra reason for refraining from cursing others
- + Since people are in the image of God, it is even more crucial to consider how we relate to others

# Small Group Questions

- + What do you think about being made in the image of God and the three Persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?
- + How are my relationships reflecting the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- + How are my relationships acting out of sin rather than the image of God?