MASTERS OR
SLAVES?

INTRO

- This unit will lay a biblical foundation for how we should think about ourselves as human beings – a Christian anthropology.
- It will help us to understand what we need to do to protect our ability to be faithful image bearers and be masters, rather than slaves to AI applications.
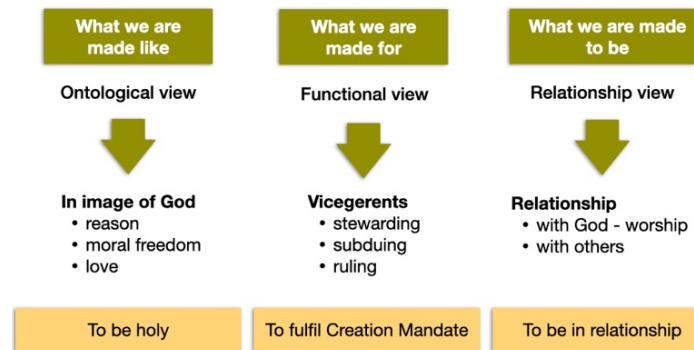
WHAT IS A HUMAN BEING?

- Human beings are special, made in God's image – what this means is referred to as the doctrine of Imago Dei.
- In Genesis 1:26 we read 'Let *us* make man in *our* image, after *our* likeness'.
- The Trinity involved in creation.
- God is in relationship with Son and Holy Spirit – so we too are designed for relationship.
- Image and Likeness synonymous – but not physical attributes – made like him means like his nature – our soul reflects this.

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

- Metaphysical – not in human form, except when Jesus came to earth.
- Bible tells us what God is like.
- He creates & works.
- He is:

  o Righteous, knows right and wrong (moral).
  o Just
  o Merciful
  o Holy
  o Loving

- What aspects of God's nature do we share after the fall of Adam and Eve?
- There are three complimentary views.

WHAT WE ARE MADE LIKE?

- Tertullian – free will the essential stamp
- Augustine – share some of God's nature: memory, intelligence and will.
- Reformers – narrow and broad definition
- Virtues like knowledge of truth, holiness, were lost after the fall.
- Still share some of God's general attributes, intelligence, reason (Isa. 1:18), natural affections, freedom to choose (true love requires freedom to choose) – impacted by sin. (Romans 1:20-23,28).
- Key attributes when considering AI.
- Christians become 'partakers of the divine nature', called to be mirrors of God's nature.

WHAT WE ARE MADE FOR

- Genesis 1:26, made to have dominion.
- To oversee His creation like a vicegerent, God's representative.
- To be an icon.

WHAT WE ARE MADE TO BE

- In relationship - with God, we communicate with language (note God speaks to Adam & Adam names animals.
- God created woman to be a companion.
- Jesus underscores this - 'the greatest commandment' (Mark 12:29-31).

All three views express something of what it means to be made in God's image and in His likeness.

Each view has a bearing on understanding how AI might diminish the image of God in us.

TARNISHING THE IMAGE

- If we are to be faithful image bearers, we need to be careful we don't allow that image to be tarnished and our 'renewal' to be stunted.

KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What is this technology doing FOR us, what is it doing TO us?
- When we use this technology, what is GAINED and what is LOST?
- Why are we using this technology and not something else (even a human being)?

Next Study – Mind over Matter
Now do the bible study for unit 2.

Read Psalm 25, Deut. 32:4, Is. 6:3, Ex. 34:6-7, Is. 1:18

What is God like?

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Read Genesis 1:24-31

What does it mean to be made in God's image and likeness?

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What is the difference between God's creation of 'living creatures' and 'man'?

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Read Genesis 2:15-24

How does Genesis 2:15 illustrate the idea of 'dominion'?

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How does this relate to being made in God's image?

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What does the passage teach about work?

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What can we learn about the importance of relationships from this passage?

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Read Genesis 3

How did the fall impact the image of God in us?

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Were any attributes lost?

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How was work affected?

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In what ways could we be tempted by technology?

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Read 2 Peter 1:3-7

What are we to become partakers of?

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What does this passage say about the divine nature?

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Reflection

What key questions should we ask ourselves when we interact with or decide to buy technology (e.g. Facebook, smart phone, personal digital assistant like Alexa, Google Home or Siri?

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With these questions in mind, discuss in what ways can technology benefits us and what we gain from it but what might be lost in the process? What could it be doing to our personhood and how might that impact our ability to mirror God's image in us?

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The main purpose of this study is to understand what the bible teaches us about being made in God's image and how our use of technology could impact our ability to be faithful image bearers.

Read Is. 6:3, Psalm 25, Deut. 32:4, Ex. 34:6-7

What is God like?

- Holy, truth, merciful, loving, steadfast, righteous, just, reasoning

Read Genesis 1:24-31

What does it mean to be made in God's image and likeness?

- We share some of His attributes like intelligence, reason (Isa. 1:18), natural affections, freedom to choose (true love requires freedom to choose.

What is the difference between God's creation of 'living creatures' and 'man'?

- Only man was made in God's image and in His likeness, this makes men and women unique amongst God's creation. This is an important truth for our consideration of AI.

Read Genesis 2:15-24

How does Genesis 2:15 illustrate the idea of 'dominion'?

- Man works and tends God's creation.

How does this relate to being made in God's image?

- We are God's vicegerent, a representative or icon of God and man was given responsibility for what God had made.

What does the passage teach about work?

- There is dignity in work because God intended it, *even before the fall*. Just because work can be hard and even seem boring or menial, doesn't mean that there is no dignity in it.

What can we learn about the importance of relationships from this passage?

- God says that it is not good for man to be ALONE, even though he had a relationship with God. The animals, who couldn't use language, were not enough.
- God creates another human being, woman, to complement man and to be a companion.

Read Genesis 3

How did the fall impact the image of God in us?

- Adam and Eve sought moral autonomy and lost their rootedness in God.
- They were no longer a perfect mirror of God's image and likeness.

Were any attributes lost?

- Some aspects were lost such as knowledge of truth and holiness.

How was work affected?

- It became harder to survive because man had to battle with the earth (thorns etc).

In what ways could we be tempted by technology?

- When it takes our eyes off of God, makes us feel we are in control through technology, when we rely on it.

Read 2 Peter 1:3-7

What are we to become partakers of?

- The divine nature, this passage and others, like Col. 3:10, show that the divine nature is in us but needs to be renewed because of sin.

What does this passage say about the divine nature?

- God is truth, He has true knowledge, we find it in God's word, He is steadfast, He is love – Christians called to supplement faith with these characteristics of the divine nature in order that we may be better mirrors of the divine nature.

Reflection

What key questions should we ask ourselves when we interact with or decide to buy technology (e.g. Facebook, smart phone, personal digital assistant like Alexa, Google Home or Siri?

- What is technology doing FOR us, what is it doing TO us? What is GAINED and what is LOST? Why this and not that?
- Technology and AI can do good things for us, but it can also impact us negatively in regard to mirroring God's image in us. We can gain some benefits but could also loose part of what it means to be human.

Discuss ways technology benefits us and what might be lost in the process?

- Focus on digital technology and AI applications that have been mentioned in Unit 1. This doesn't need to be a long discussion as future units will look at these in more detail.