



# Freedom in Christ

Pastor Michael Cranford

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# Schedule

- Sept 10    Lecture 1: What we lost in the fall
- Sept 17    Lecture 2: What we regain in Christ
- Sept 24    \_\_\_\_\_
- Oct 1        \_\_\_\_\_
- Oct 8        \_\_\_\_\_



# Freedom in Christ: Salvation as Present Reality

# You are not an accident!

6. God's solution is to offer us forgiveness, belonging, significance, and eternal life in response to our faith. Faith (trust) is, at its core, putting God first in our lives.

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:13-14)



# You are not an accident!

6. God's solution is to offer us forgiveness, belonging, significance, and eternal life in response to our faith. Faith (trust) is, at its core, putting God first in our lives.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

<sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. (John 1:12-13)



# You are not an accident!

7. With new life comes new identity. We share Jesus' life and become members of God's family.

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (2 Cor 5:17; NASB)

<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. (Eph 2:4-7)

# You are not an accident!

7. With new life comes new identity. We share Jesus' life and become members of God's family.

<sup>14</sup> Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky <sup>16</sup> as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. (Phil 2:14-16)



# You are not an accident!

8. The pattern Jesus demonstrated was the opposite of Adam; he humbled himself to death and became dependent on the Father.

By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me. (John 5:30)

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Phil 2:8)





# You are not an accident!

8. The pattern Jesus demonstrated was the opposite of Adam; he humbled himself to death and became dependent on the Father.

“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.” (John 14:28)

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”  
(Luke 22:42)



# You are not an accident!

9. We are to follow this same pattern. With identity comes purpose.

<sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.” (Luke 9:23)

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. <sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. (Phil 2:3-5)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal 2:20)

# The Image of God

What is it and why does it matter?

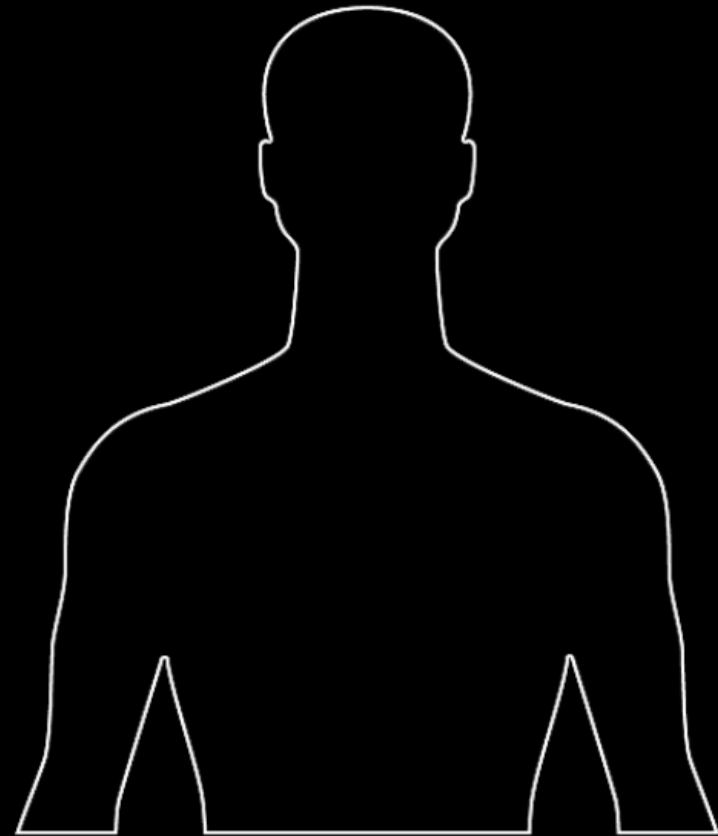
<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let Us make mankind in Our **image**, according to Our **likeness**; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the livestock and over all the earth, and over every crawling thing that crawls on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Gen 1:26-27; NASB)

Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living person. (Gen 2:7; NASB)

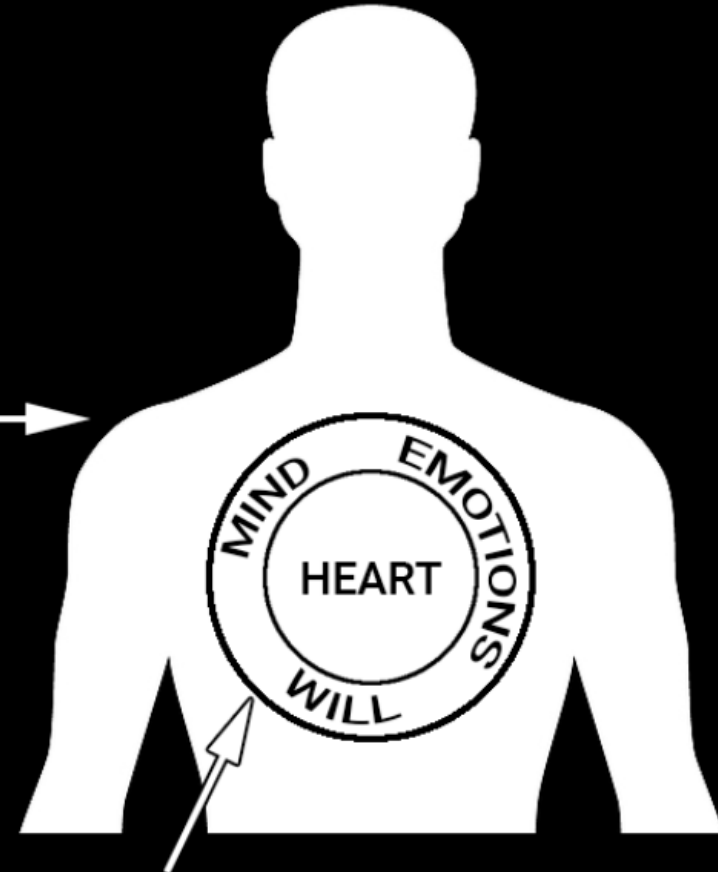


# The Image of God

Image of God



You



**Spirit**

**Body**

Ordained from eternity (Ps 139:16)  
Created for good works in advance (Eph 2:10)  
To be holy like God is holy (1 Pet 1:15-16)



# The Image of God

Image and likeness of God are analogous to how we create offspring...

This is the book of the generations of Adam. On the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.<sup>2</sup> He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them “mankind” on the day when they were created.<sup>3</sup> When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own **likeness**, according to his **image**, and named him Seth. (Gen 5:1-3; NASB)



# The Image of God

The image of God seems tied to gender...

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the livestock and over all the earth, and over every crawling thing that crawls on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.  
(Gen 1:26-27; NASB)



# The Image of God

The image of God has not been lost or corrupted!

Whoever sheds human blood,  
By man his blood shall be shed,  
For in the image of God  
He made mankind. (Gen 9:6; NASB)

<sup>8</sup> But no one *among* mankind can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless *our* Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, who have been made in the likeness of God. (Jam 3:8-9; NASB)



# The Image of God

There are other verses that talk about Jesus being the image of God, but they are not talking about our creation in the image of God.

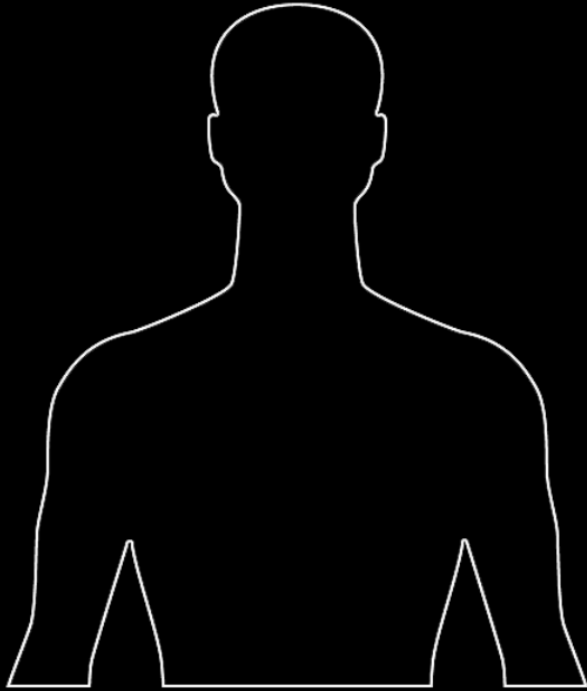
<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, **who is the image of God.** <sup>5</sup> For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants on account of Jesus. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (2 Cor 4:3-6; NASB)

<sup>15</sup> **He is the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn of all creation: <sup>16</sup> for by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. (Col 1:15-16; NASB)



# The Image of God

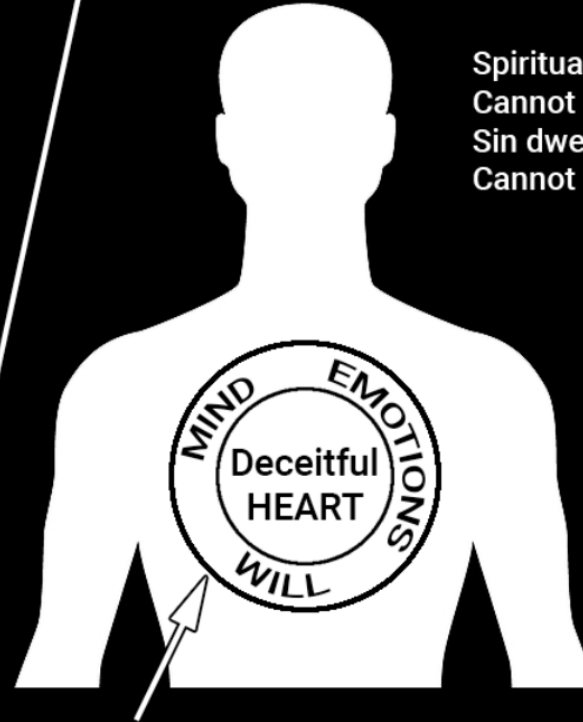
## Image of God



Ordained from eternity (Ps 139:16)  
Created for good works in advance (Eph 2:10)  
To be holy like God is holy (1 Pet 1:15-16)

## In the Flesh

### You



Spiritually dead (Eph 2:1-3; Rom 7:9)  
Cannot inherit the kingdom (1 Cor 15:50)  
Sin dwells within (Rom 7:17)  
Cannot please God (Rom 8:8)

## Spirit

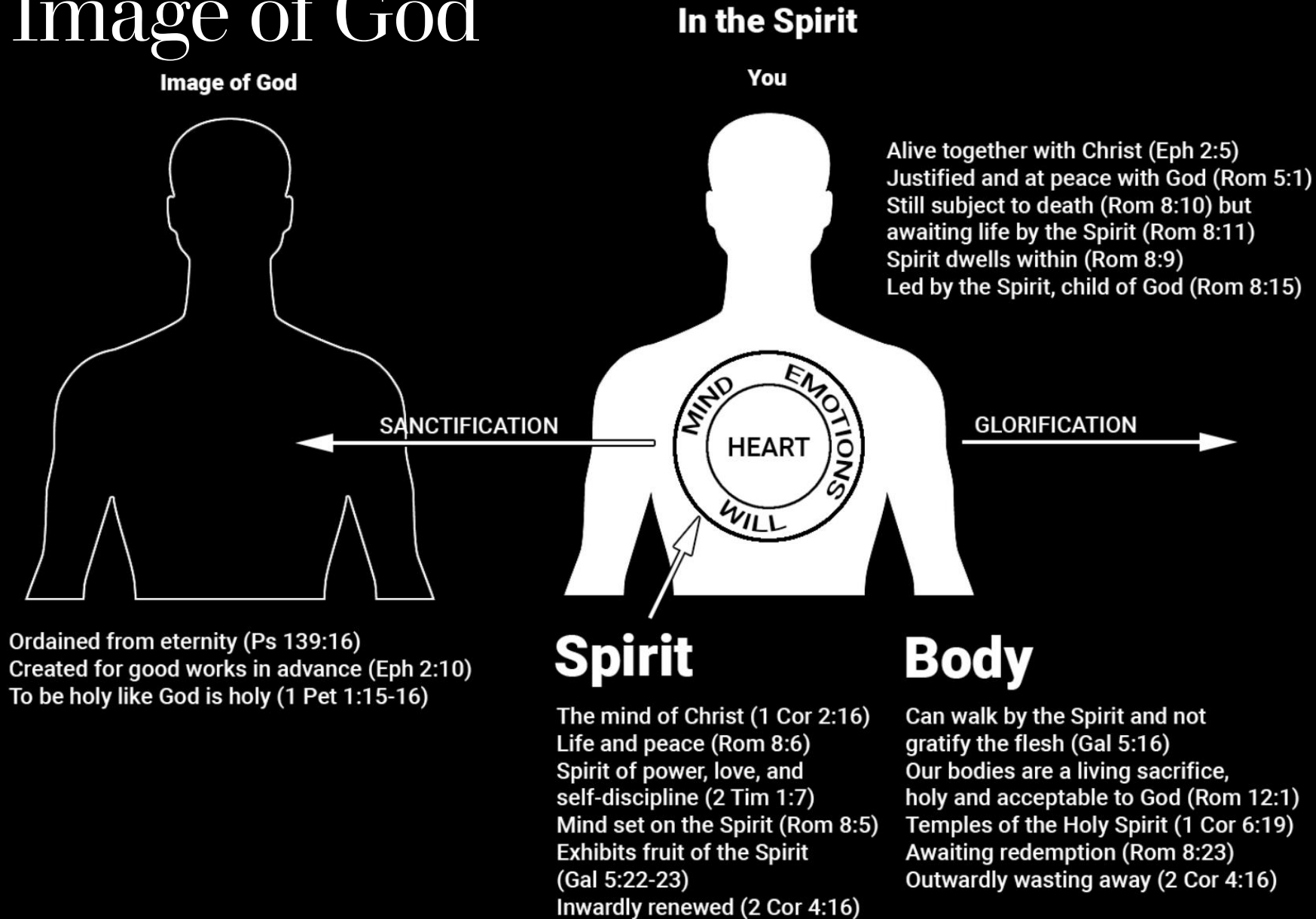
Self-will (2 Pet 2:10)  
Boastful, prideful (1 Jn 2:16)  
Mind set on the flesh,  
Hostile to God (Rom 8:5)  
Futile reasoning,  
darkened hearts (Rom 1:21)

## Body

Acts of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21)  
The lust of the flesh, the lust of  
the eyes (1 Jn 2:16)  
Subjected to decay (Rom 8:20-21)



# The Image of God



# The Image of God

How does the image of God relate to our lives today as Christians?

But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. (2 Cor 3:18; NASB)

Do not lie to one another, since you stripped off the old self with its *evil* practices, <sup>10</sup> and have put on **the new self, which is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created it**— <sup>11</sup> *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, *and* free, but Christ is all, and in all. (Col 3:9-11; NASB)

# The Image of God

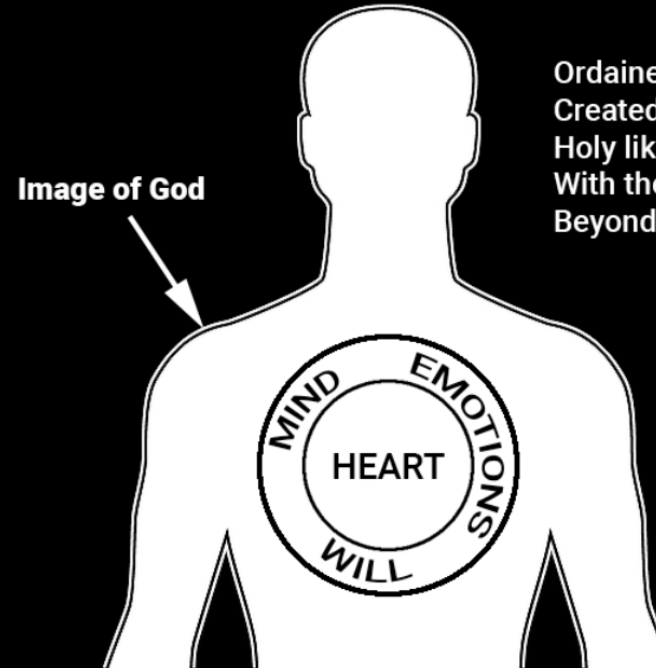
What's the ultimate plan?

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the eagerly awaiting creation waits for the revealing of the sons *and daughters* of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it*, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only *that*, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons *and daughters*, the redemption of our body. (Rom 8:18-23; NASB)

# The Image of God

## In Eternity

**YOU** in total realization of the Image of God



Ordained from eternity (Ps 139:16)  
Created for good works in advance (Eph 2:10)  
Holy like God is holy (1 Pet 1:15-16)  
With the Lord forever (1 Thess 4:17)  
Beyond the realm of sin and sorrow (Rev 21:3-4)

## Spirit

The mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:16)  
Life and peace (Rom 8:6)  
Spirit of power, love, and self-discipline (2 Tim 1:7)  
Mind set on the Spirit (Rom 8:5)  
Exhibits fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)  
Inwardly renewed (2 Cor 4:16)

## + Body

Glorified (Romans 8:30)  
Imperishable, powerful, spiritual (1 Cor 15:42-44)  
No longer flesh and blood (1 Cor 15:50)  
Immortal (1 Cor 15:53-54)  
Transformed to resemble the resurrected Christ (2 Cor 3:18; Phil 3:21)  
Redeemed (Rom 8:23)



# You are created to be free!

I. People separated from God cannot not sin (Rom 8:8).

...and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. (Rom 8:8-9)



# You are created to be free!

2. Those who are in Christ have a choice: they can submit to sin (continue to put yourself before God) or they can put God first. We can choose what controls us. You are controlled by what you obey (Rom 6:16).

<sup>11</sup> In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup> Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. (Rom 6:11-14)

<sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. (Eph 5:8-11)