

Housegroup Notes Autumn 2026.

Introduction:

This autumn, Sunday mornings will attempt to sketch a foundational understanding of the good news that is presented to us throughout Scripture, finding its fulfilment in Christ.



The following words are taken from the teaching overview:

The good news of the gospel is about Jesus Christ, who restores the **image of God** broken by *sin and commissions a new humanity, released from the power of sin and death, to live as witnesses to the wonder of God's redemptive work and to what it is to be truly human. The good news of the gospel is about not only **the restoration of a broken image but also the restoration of a broken relationship.** It deals with the barrier of sin and death and creates the church as a new people in Christ. It communicates that God is with us. It speaks to the present and opens the future. And it does much more... It is wonder-full.*

It affects how we treat each other, how we view our embodied present and our embodied future, it re-orientes us around Christ and makes our life about the glory of God not self, it turns people from idols to true worship.

*It is big. All-encompassing. Transformative. **It is hope for the world. And for individuals.***

CS Lewis wrote of his response to the good news, "***I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.***" So, this series looks not just in the achievement of the good news but its transformative effect in the lives of those who receive it,

This teaching on the good news is focused on two key ideas:

- **The image of God**, which is developed through the notion of being witnesses and being light to the world.
- **God with us.** The good news finds its culmination in a restored and full relationship with God, knowing his presence in new creation. This is the essence of shalom: everything in its right relation. The good news renews us in Christ as the firstfruits of a new creation, so that we can have right relationship with God, with ourselves, with other and with creation itself.
- Colossians 1 reminds us, ***¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.***

Notes for w/b September 6th, 2026

Made in the Image of God for God



As we begin this evening discuss a few questions that seek to draw out the significance of understanding human beings as being made in the image of God. These questions are not designed to lead to neat or full answers but to stir conversation.

- What does this make you think about the character of God?
- What does it make you feel about the way we should treat other human beings?
- How does it make you feel about yourself?
- What does it make you think about Jesus?



Read Psalm 8.1-4

This Psalm has parallels with the text in Genesis 1 that we will study in a moment. It, however, focuses on wonder and leads to worship.

- What do you think is the heart of the wonder that the writer is writing about?
- Allow your thoughts to turn to a time of praise in prayer...



Read Genesis 1.26-31- some of the questions might find more resource in Genesis 2, Psalm 8 or Psalm 104

These words come as the last and final act of creation. God has made and ordered creation, and it has been deemed 'good' throughout. It is when humanity has been created that God reviews all his entire creation and calls it 'very good'.

The key question in this passage is what does it mean to be made in the 'image of God'?

- Spend some time initially discussing what different people think about this or what questions they may have about it?
- God is a relational God, one God in three persons. Might being made in the image of God have something to do with relationship?
- The text makes it clear that humanity- male and female are made in God's image.
 - What does that say about our view of human beings, and of our view of God?
- The texts says that part of being made in God's image is to share something of his authority over creation.
 - How do you think this might be problematic?
 - What do we need to bear in mind when we speak about human 'authority' in creation?
 - What do we need to repent of?
- Being made in God's image speaks also of representing God in creation. What do you think that might involve?
- What do you think is the mission of human beings in creation?
- How has sin affected this?
- What does that mean for the good news in Jesus (read Colossians §1.15-20)



Can you think of any aspect of your life in the coming days where being reminded about what it is to be made in the image of God might encourage or challenge you? Pray for one another to go as witnesses to Christ, who is the true image of God.

You can follow up this week by looking at resources here, <https://bibleproject.com/videos/image-of-god/>