

## Are Homosexuals the 'Image of God'?

Written by K B Napier

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One of the claims of homosexuals is that Christians cannot oppose them because they are made in the image of God. They have certainly picked a correct phrase – but does it apply to them? The answer might seem controversial, but it must be given. Do you, as a believer, feel very uncomfortable when homosexuals make this claim? But, do you accept it, albeit reluctantly, because it is 'in the Bible'? As always we must read the Bible properly!

Remember that homosexual activists are liars and deceivers. Also remember that their current movement, which is sweeping the world, is satanic. With these facts in mind, let us see if homosexuals really are 'made in His image'.

### Only Three Texts

Though used copiously, the phrase 'image of God' is found only three times in scripture: Genesis 1:27, 9:6, and 2 Corinthians 4:4, but only once to describe humankind's relationship to God. Let us see what the phrase actually means in the three verses.

#### Genesis 1:27

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

The primary reference here is to Adam and Eve, not to the whole of future mankind. What we need to know is if it also applies to future mankind by extension. Can this fact of the creative act project itself onto all of mankind? The latter phrase, 'male and female' implies that it does. But, we must be very certain.

God (in this text, *'elohiyim*) is always depicted as male, and in this verse we have 'created he them', as a confirmation. Yet, He made Adam and Eve in His own image. Obviously, Eve was not male, so this 'image' cannot be of a physical kind. The word (his 'image')

*tselem*

is a masculine noun, which again confirms that God (all three Persons) is male. That the term applies to all three Persons is found in verse 26, where we find 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness' refers to the plural existence of the Trinity. The reference to 'his' in the next verse is a testimony to the Oneness of God, comprising of three Persons.

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What, then, does 'image', *tselem*, mean in this text? (In the verse, 'in his [own] image' equals 'in the image of God'). There are several possible meanings, but the context points to a *figurative*

meaning of 'resemblance' or 'likeness'. In what way? The word comes from an unused root, meaning 'to shade'. Thus,

*tselem*

is a reference NOT to the actual thing, but to a semblance or similarity... and, strictly speaking, 'similar' is NOT equal to 'the same'.

Later in 5:3, we find that Adam had a son 'in his own likeness, after his image'. Does this mean the son (Seth) was exactly the same? No, of course not. It means that Seth was (a) of his loins and (b) similar to him in various ways and characteristics, and probably looks.

The 'image' we are made in, of God, is a reference to His (good – He has no other) attributes, which God expected man to honour. It cannot refer to anything physical, because the Father and the Holy Ghost are spirit, and at the time the Son was also spirit in Heaven, only to reveal His mankind-ness when He came to earth. Adam, then, was made to be like God in His attributes.

It is further defined by saying that this likeness (*děmût*) was in having dominion over all of creation. This fitted Adam when created, but not men later, after he had sinned. Until then he was in God's spiritual and moral image. Only Christ as man later portrayed this perfection accurately and fully. Adam, then, initially had the glory and honour of God upon himself. Today, 'greens' and pagans are stripping man of dominion over the creation, in favour of being subservient to nature... changing 'his image' to 'the image of what is created'.

### Genesis 9:6

'Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.'

In this context, God tells Noah that he can eat anything he wished – every animal, fish, etc., as well as plants. But, he could not eat any meat that still had running blood in it, because blood represents life itself. Which is why God gave a commandment, that a murderer shall forfeit his own life – a life for a life. This speaks of murdering an innocent man.

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### **2 Corinthians 4:4**

“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

As you can readily see, the 'image of God' in this text refers only to Christ, who is the perfect likeness of His Father, for both are 'in each other'.

The simple fact is that the 'image of God' is defined only once, in Genesis 1:27, as man having dominion over creation, and as having His spiritual likeness.

### **Thus, Can Homosexuals Claim the 'image of God'?**

Now we come to another fact, that those who are not elect and saved have no part in Heaven, or salvation, or God's salvic love for man. All men were originally made to reflect God's glory and authority over creation. But, only a few (the saved) are now in His image in the spiritual sense. Therefore, whilst we must respect all men as fellow humans, we must not, and cannot, respect them spiritually (because they are spiritually dead) or morally, if their lives are devoted to wickedness.

Clearly, homosexuals are NOT spiritually alive and are not our brethren, nor are they loved by God, Who states very strongly that they are bound for hell because of their 'abomination'; God says He hates both the act and the person. (See other articles on this). Their 'image' is former, and can be restored again only if they repent and cast aside their sexual sins. Thus, the 'image of God' in their case can only refer to the basic fact that they were made originally in Adam. The 'image' was tarnished badly when He sinned, and this corruption continues to this day, getting worse continually. As David says, we are all conceived in sin.

We find that men corrupted themselves (Deuteronomy 4:25) by making graven images – idols. This was 'evil in the sight of the LORD'. Today, homosexuals have erected a reflection of themselves, and so have cast aside the image of God, replacing it with an image of Satan.

### **Romans 1:23**

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Romans One is a definitive testimony against homosexuals, not just against what they do, but against them as people. Why? Because they

*'... changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.'*

Homosexuals, then, have CHANGED God's glory (that He originally gave to mankind in Adam) from His image, to 'an image made like to corruptible man'. That is, homosexuals worship themselves, as created beings, and try to equate it with what is incorruptible, eternal, and uncreated – God! The word 'image', *eikōn* (as in our modern 'icon') is the opposite of God's image, for it is immoral. But, those who obey and love the Lord are examples of this holy image.

Rather, those who are unsaved and homosexual bow their knee to the 'image of Baal' (Romans 11:4; an idol devoted to the false male god of Phoenicia and Canaan, whose female equivalent was Ashtoreth).

But, homosexuals have accepted the mark and image of the beast. That is, they have copied and glorified Satan and his works. We can therefore conclude that homosexuals, by not repenting and obliterating their evil (both in thought and deed), are the image of Satan and, though God created mankind to be in the image of Himself, they have worshipped themselves instead of God. This means that their claim to be in the image of God is corrupt, and is false in spiritual terms.

For this reason we may not accept their claim as it stands, especially as God tells us they are damned to hell unless they repent. Also for this reason our affiliation with them as human beings must be restricted to mere courtesy, for we cannot, in any way, give them respect or spiritual equality, for their spirits are dead. As I have said many times before, we have no right to respect or love what God hates and condemns.

These facts also dismiss the claim that God made homosexuals to be as they are. The hatred God has for both the sin AND the sinner (homosexuality and homosexuals) show us that God certainly did NOT make people to be homosexuals! Indeed, such a belief is itself blasphemous. Homosexuality is a personal choice of corrupt behaviour. Everything about it is wicked and as far from being of God, as the West is from the East. The very idea of God 'making'

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homosexuals is an horrendous lie of Satan.

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