

Biblical Topics

Man

The foremost visible creature is man. In the beginning God Himself especially formed his body, gave him a rational soul, made him ruler over the earth, and above all, created him in His image.

- Genesis 2:7: the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.
- Genesis 1:26-27: ²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

The image of God consisted in that man knew God and was perfectly happy in such knowledge. The image of God was not a physical, but spiritual likeness. It did not consist in this that man, as distinguished from the beast, had a rational soul, but rather in the conformity of man's spiritual nature with God. Man knew God, His will, and His works. Man did not acquire them by much study and observation. Man possessed them by nature, and filled his heart with supreme joy and happiness.

- Colossians 3:10: and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.
- Ephesians 4:24: and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
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Man lost the image of God when he fell into sin. In believers, a beginning of its renewal is made. Only in heaven, however, will this image be fully restored. When man sinned, he became sinful, hence the original righteousness and holiness was totally lost.

- Genesis 5:3: When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.
- Psalm 17:15: And I—in righteousness I will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

The above information is taken from: "Luther's Small Catechism" annotated by Edward W. A. Koehler.