

IMAGO DEI

Affirming Our God-Given Identity

For the week of September 7th, 2025.

Life

Have you ever felt that church was for people that “have it all together?” Why did you feel that way? How do you feel about the church today?

Have you ever had a moment where someone’s simple act of love, invitation, or hospitality shifted the way you thought about your own life? What was that moment and how did it change your life?

The sermon talked about seeing the Imago Dei visibly in the actions of others. Can you recall a time when you saw God’s image through someone in an unexpected way?

Theology

Genesis 1 says we are created in the “*Imago Dei*” (the Image of God). How does this differ from how other ancient cultures viewed the “image of their gods”?

The sermon described three “encounters” with the Imago Dei: personal purpose, communal humanity, and liberating covenant. Which of these three resonates most with you, and why? What are the dangers of only embracing one aspect of the Imago Dei without the fullness of the others?

If the original audience of Genesis 1 was living in exile, how might the truth of the Imago Dei have encouraged or reshaped a community suffering under such harsh and oppressive conditions?

In Practice

If we are “angled mirrors” reflecting God’s glory (*NT Wright*), what are some practical ways we can reflect that image this week in our workplaces, schools, or homes?

How does seeing every human as an image-bearer of God affect the way we think about enemies, difficult people, or those very different from us?

Take a moment and read Genesis 1:27-31 together. After reading, consider this question: How can we be praying for each other as we journey through this new series, Imago Dei, together?

