

13th Anniversary Service
Imago Dei
NN & SFK Combined
01/26/19

Opening

-hanging out with the Marriage Life Group...picture of **Steve and Laurie**...they are now being investigated for cloning themselves when they had their two children!

-it reminded me of this picture of **my Dad** in his early 20's...look familiar?

-One question tonight could be, "If you are created in His image and likeness do you bear His resemblance?"

-But my questions for us tonight is this, **"If we are created in His image and likeness, does our church bear the resemblance of Eden?"**

Imago Dei

-Genesis 1:26-27 (NASB)

- Image – "tselem" (selleem)
 - Same word for idolatry, unholy because mankind wants to be the creator who builds an image instead of being the image that is created, by a perfect God!
 - Also unholy because the "creator" now worships the image instead the image worshipping The Creator!
- Likeness – "damuwth" (daymoot)

-Irenaeus (135-205)

- Aquinas, Calvin, Barth...
- Image of God = free will, capacity to reason
- Likeness of God = moral and spiritual accountability (moral compass)

-Genesis 1:3-25 (reference only)

- Let there be...
- Let the waters...
- Let the land...
- Let them...
- Let the earth...

- Verse 26... "Let us..."

-God is about to give something He has not yet given...the Imago Dei...His image and His likeness!

-Genesis 3:10 (NASB)

- Adam & Eve's first act of creation was to create the likeness of mankind (explain idea of nakedness)
- Everything God created was done so with the ability to create after its own kind...but when Adam and Even forsook the likeness of God, they became creators after their own kind instead of God's!

-Genesis 5:1-3 (NASB)

- Contrast between verse 1 and verse 3
- Irenaeus believed mankind retained the image of God but lost His likeness...because one day we would need that free will to choose the likeness of God once again!

-John 1:12-13...the way home to likeness! WHO DO YOU RESEMBLE?

-What does all this mean for our church heading into 2019?

The Attributes of Eden

-The Bible tells us God is love...

-The Bible tells us God is our Father...

-But the very first way God reveals Himself to the Universe is as The Creator!

-When a community of people come together under the banner of Jesus Christ, collectively declaring Him as their Redeemer and Master, they set aside the likeness of Adam and the likeness of "Let Us" is restored to them. They walk in the fullness of a Genesis 1 Imago Dei! And a people walking in the fullness of the Imago Dei are a people who should resemble their God...creating in His image and likeness and not our own!

-I'm not talking about being different to be unique, out of insecurity, to be contrarian, because of arrogance and hubris...

-A conviction that at the heart of God, He is a creator and if we are walking in His image and His likeness then the church should be a place of divine imagination...a longing to create and not replicate!

Saturday Church	Couples in Leadership	Gen. Tethers
Diversity	Church Cooperation	Politics

(BAND)

-And when a church is being faithful to create everything that God puts in their heart, creating instead of replicating...something else begins to happen, something deeper begins to form in that community...that something is a culture that is defined by the Attributes of Eden!!!!

Diversity	Harmony	Prospering	Life	Boundless
Innovation	Beauty	Thriving	Equality	Order
Glory	Originality	Inspiring	Pleasure	Liberty