

SERMON OUTLINE NOTES

I. MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD (GENESIS 1:26-27)

- A. All human beings bear the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1-3)
- B. Humanity has innate worth and value (Psalm 8:3-5)
- C. These truths shape our understanding of the sanctity of life and our ethics
 - 1. All human life is valuable (Psalm 8:5)
 - 2. And must be treated so (Genesis 9:6; James 3:9-10)

II. HOW WE IMAGE GOD IN OUR LIVES

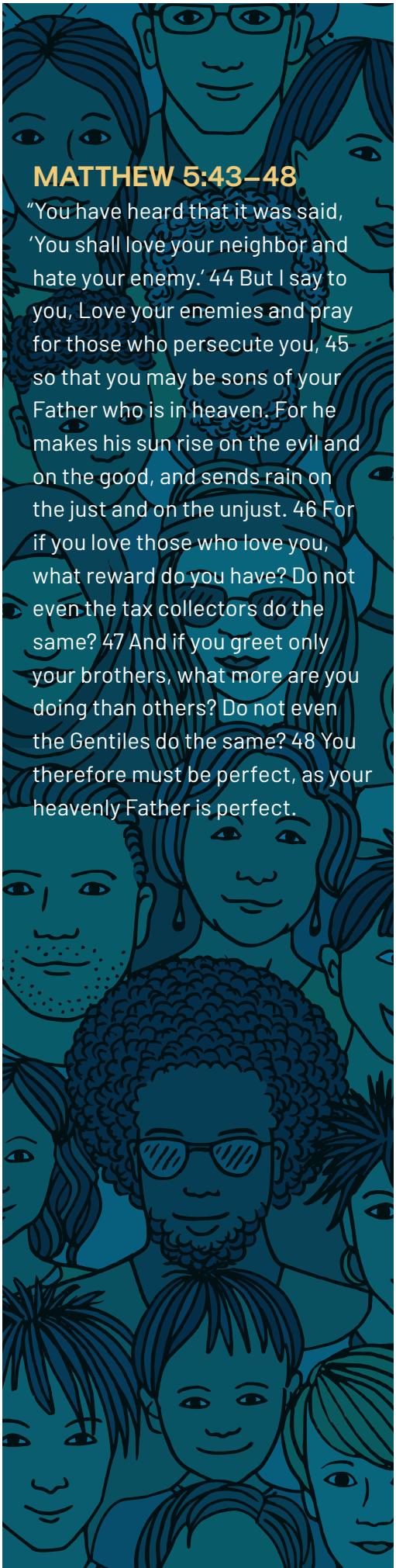
- A. We image God through being makers
 - 1. God created (Genesis 1:1; 1:27) and shapes creating according to His will (Genesis 2:7)
 - 2. We utilize what is made to create and make (Exodus 35:30-36:1; Psalm 101:1)
- B. We image God through being relational
 - 1. God is triune (Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:15; 28:19)
 - 2. We are meant to be communal beings in relationship with others (Genesis 2:18; 1:28)
- C. We image God through being stewards of power
 - 1. God exercises power to care and provide (Genesis 2:9-10), and to protect and defend (Genesis 3:21; Isaiah 37:35; Psalm 68:5)
 - 2. We are meant to care and provide, and to protect and defend the vulnerable (Deuteronomy 24:19; Isaiah 1:17)
- D. We image God through being gracious
 - 1. God graciously gives (Job 12:10; Romans 8:32)
 - 2. We are meant to graciously bless others through giving (Romans 12:13)

III. THE FALL AND REDEMPTION OF THE IMAGE OF GOD (EPHESIANS 2:8-10; COLOSSIANS 3:9-10)

- A. The distortion and redemption of culture making (Ephesians 4:28)
- B. The distortion and redemption of relationships (Galatians 3:27-28)
- C. The distortion and redemption of stewardship (Romans 12:13)
- D. The distortion and redemption of graciousness (Like 14:13-14)

IV. THE IMAGE OF GOD AND KINGDOM ETHICS (MATTHEW 5:43-48)

- A. Culture-making ethic (V.48)
- B. Relationship ethic (V.44)
- C. Stewardship of power ethic (v.46-47)
- D. Graciousness ethic (v.45b)



SERMON REFLECTIONS

MATTHEW 5:43–48

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

1. When you think of the sanctity of life, what comes to mind? Are your first thoughts more theological or political? Why do you think that is?
2. Does treating fellow image bearers with dignity mean that you simply shouldn't murder? Are there other ways that the dignity of image bearers is diminished or ignored?
3. How has sin distorted the four ways we have been called to image God (culture making, relationships, stewardship, and graciousness)?
4. How has the Gospel freed us to live the way we are designed to live as image bearers?
5. How can you better treat your fellow image bearers with the innate worth and value that God has given them? How can you better image God in your life? Pray with your church family that the Lord would work in and through you to His glory!