Doctrines of Humanity and the Image of God, and Original Sin

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The doctrine of humanity and the image of God is first highlighted when God created humans in his image. Relative to this creation, the image of God is defined from perspectives of relation, structure, and functionalities bestowed on humans (Shatzer, Humanity Image of God). These three perspectives influence Christian life by defining who Christians are, why they are special, and their purpose or function. When God created man in his own image (Gen 1:26-28), He initiated the relationship by making man unique and having a special relationship with God. This influences Christians to live, minister, and represent God’s authority, glory, and interests. Unlike other animals or plants, Christians are God’s special creation, with dignity and significance (Tozer, 2022). The doctrine also influences Christians to understand the substantive nature of God as depicted in qualities, abilities, skills, and consciousness in humans. Christians' lives and ministries are guided by these fundamental concepts of the special relationship and structure God instilled in humans.

Moreover, the functional aspect of God’s image also influences Christian life and ministry by guiding the conduct, purpose, actions, and goals (Cho, 2019). Christians believe that their respective abilities and responsibilities are bestowed upon them by God to further His rule and authority. The Christian ministry has teachings about committing to God’s work as part of personal responsibilities. In Genesis, God gave man specific duties, including to reproduce, dominate other creations, and exalt God’s rule and authority on Earth (Shatzer, Humanity Image of God; Genesis 1:28). For instance, Christians today praise and worship God as a way of serving Him, glorifying his name, and caring for other creations of God. Therefore, this doctrine influences how Christians justify life, meaning, and purpose that aligns with God’s image and interests.

The doctrine of original sin also influences Christian life and ministry. After Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they ruined their relationship with God (Shatzer, Original Sin). As a result, God punished Adam and Even by instant nakedness, followed by hefty burdens of toiling for food, labour pain, death, and hatred among future generations, among others (Genesis 3:7; Romans 5:12). These punishments for original sin guide Christian life to understand the authority of God and his mercilessness on betrayal and failure to exalt his rule (Farrell, 2018). This is evident in the ministry teachings for repentance, avoiding more sin, and serving God with absolute loyalty and dedication. This doctrine also influences how Christian life and ministry justify death and condemnation for non-righteousness. The doctrine also explains the concept of salvation and how Christian life strives to uphold God’s rules, authority, and commandments to avoid sin, condemnation, and death.

**References**

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Gen 1:26-28

Genesis 1:26-27

Genesis 3:7

Genesis 3:14-19

Romans 5:12