

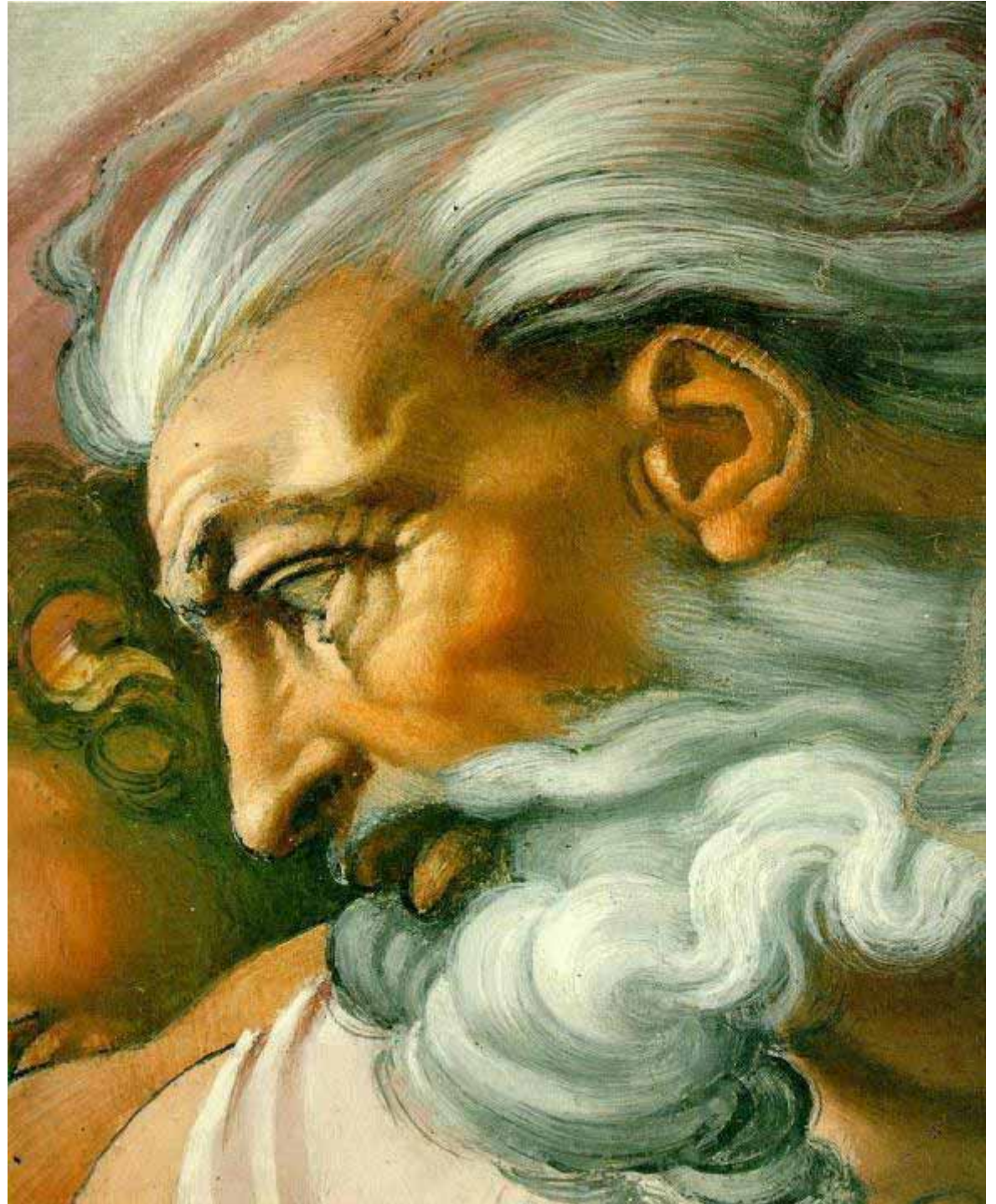
A detailed view of the central portion of Michelangelo's famous fresco, 'The Creation of Adam'. It shows the two hands reaching toward each other: the hand of God on the right, extended from a reclining position, and the hand of Adam on the left, reaching out from a lying position. The fingertips are just inches apart, creating a sense of tension and divine spark. The background is the cracked and aged plaster of the original work.

**Created in the...  
What?**

**Genesis 1:26-27**

**Then God  
said, "Let us  
make  
humankind in  
our image,  
according to  
our likeness;**

**NRS Genesis 1:26a**

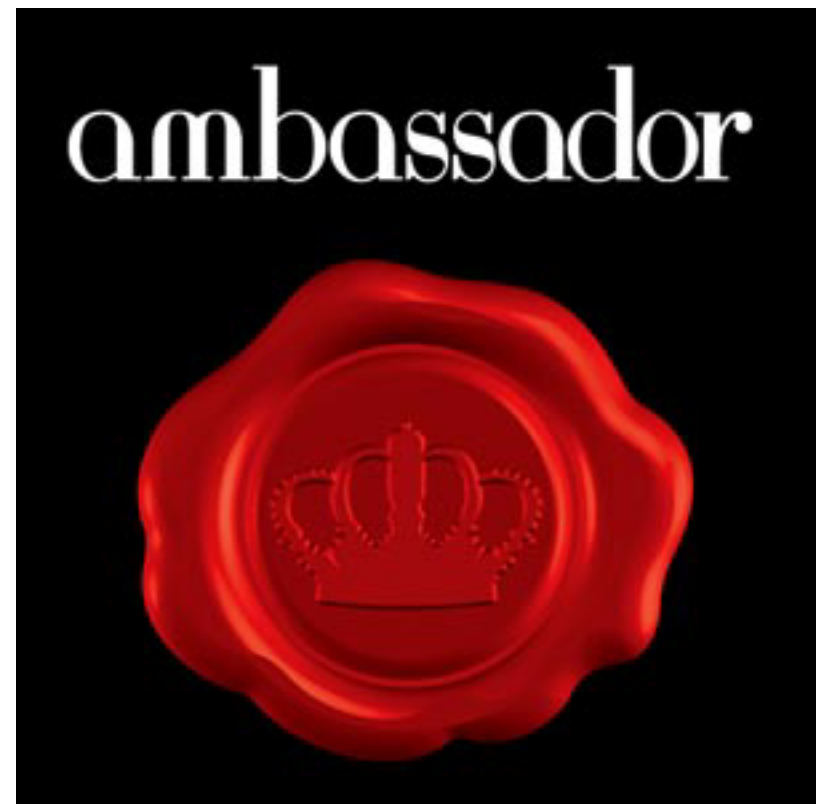


## **Why Is it important to reflect on God's image in which we were created?**

- **It is who we were created to be.**
- **We have virtually forgotten who we are.**
- **This loss of identity stands at the very center of a lot of our emotional, physical, and spiritual problems.**
- **Therefore, we have lost the essence of who we were created to be.**

# What is this Image and Likeness of God?

- Image and likeness is a reflection and re-presentation. It is not the exact same thing, however.
- Made possible by The Holy Spirit living within us.



# **What Then, Are we to Reflect and Re-present?**

- The Natural Image**
- The Political image**
- The Moral Image**

## The Natural Image

*Spiritual receptivity, as the Holy Spirit speaks truth to our spirits...*

- Producing a will that coincides with God's will.
- Helping us to understand our belovedness.
- That we are free to choose God's love, to choose joy in your life.

**Dear Lord,**

**May my will coincide with Your will and  
may I fully live out of the fact that I am  
greatly loved by You Almighty God.**

**Lord Jesus I freely chooses to receive  
Your love and live the life of joy for  
which I was created.**

**In The Precious Name of  
Jesus Christ, I pray, Amen**

**Take a moment, sit quietly, and begin to see yourself through the eyes of God. Come into agreement with God's love for you, and claim your belovedness.**



## The Political Image

**and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."** NRS Genesis 1:26 b

*Humanity, blessed by God, called to be a blessing to all earthly creation*

## **The Moral Image**

- **Represents the unique human ability to commune with God.**

**“The moral image is a copy of the eternal mind”**

**John Wesley**

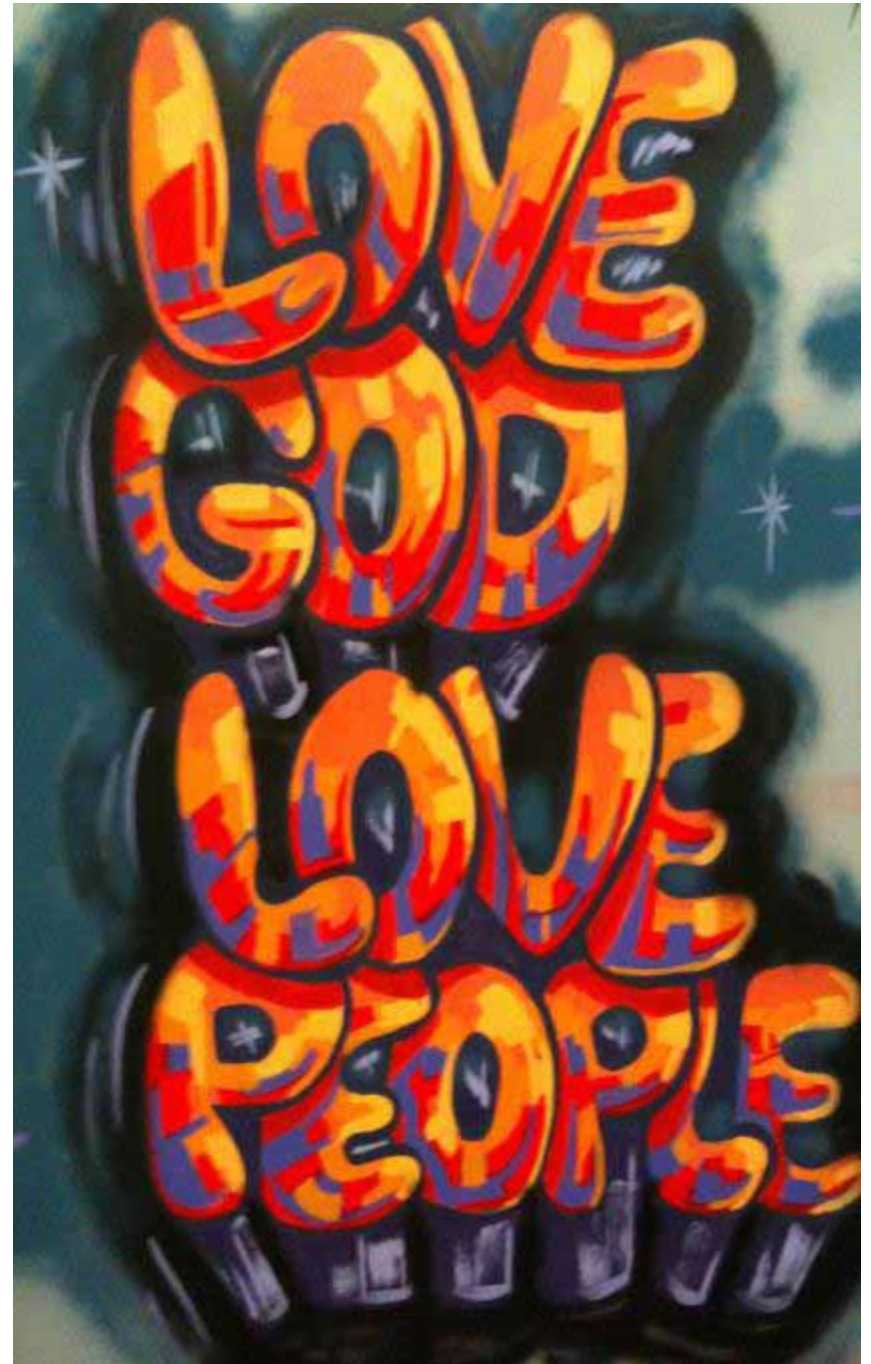
- **God’s righteousness and holiness stamped upon the human race.**

## God Is Love

**So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.** <sup>NRS</sup> 1 John 4:16

*Humanity as a righteous and holy creation walking intimately with the Holy God.*

**Therefore, the meaning of the image of God at its essential center must be understood as a love relationship, between God, Us which is then passed on to all those around us and to all of creation.**



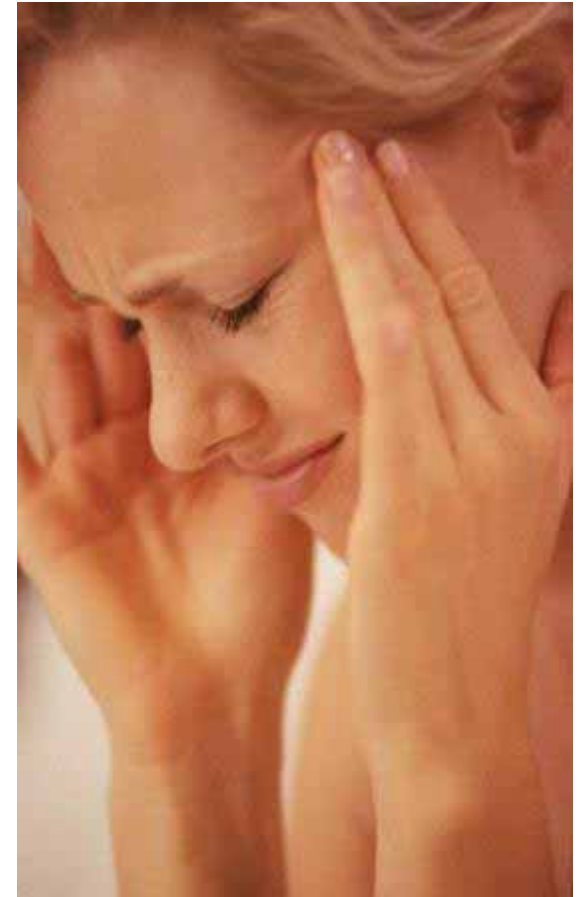
## Relationships:

- **Natural:** Human beings, created in God's image, living out healthy relationships, with God and one another.
- **Political:** Human beings living out a healthy relationship between us and the rest of creation.
- **Moral:** Life as an intimate, righteous and holy walk with God.

**Some Bad News: The Image of God was broken and virtually destroyed.**

- **Our relationship with God, the natural image, is lacking. This is not God's fault it is our fault.**
- **Our treatment of creation, the political image, is abysmal.**
- **Holiness, the moral image, is a strange word, that nobody seems to understand anymore.**

**...Thus, emotional, spiritual and physical illnesses are running rampant.**



**Wretched man that I am! Who will  
rescue me from this body of death? <sup>NRS</sup>**

**Romans 7:24**

*Have you ever  
asked yourself...*



*Can  
God  
Heal  
Me?*

**Thanks be to God  
through Jesus Christ our  
Lord! <sup>NRS</sup> Romans 7:25**

**We can, together, both for ourselves  
and for others..**

**Walk with Christ as we ,“work out your  
own salvation with fear and trembling; for  
it is God who is at work in you, enabling  
you both to will and to work for his good  
pleasure.” <sup>NRS</sup> Philippians 2:12b-13**

**Salvation is “the renewal of souls in the  
image of Christ”**

**John Wesley**

**Why did I return from  
my vacation early?**

**This morning is a call to everyone here  
to invite someone to experience God's  
love, as we explore God's healing  
touch over the coming seven weeks.**

**Lord Jesus,**

**We come before You, in this place of worship, that You would empower us through the Holy Spirit to even now begin to touch our will, to open up our understanding, to lead us to freely chooses Your healing love in our lives. Lord we come before You as desperate people in need of Your healing touch. Touch me Oh Lord. Touch us Oh Lord. Lord help us to reclaim our role as stewards of all earthly creation,**

**and to recognize ourselves as Your beloved and thus be a blessing to others and to all that is around us. Lord Jesus place us on the healing road of holiness that we can grow into Your image, thus have the image of God renewed in us, as we walk in Christ Jesus. Please bless these coming weeks and place those in my path that need to know your healing touch, that I might invite them to be in Your Holy Presence. Lord I love You and I praise You.**

**It is in the precious name of Jesus Christ  
I pray all these things, Amen.**