

## **The Doctrine of Mankind: Part 2**

### **The “Image of God” in Human Beings**

Hebrews 1:1-4, states unequivocally that Jesus is the form and substance of God the Father. Listen to the Word of God!

God who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the worlds, who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (see also Col. 1:15, 19).

“The express image of His person” literally should be translated, “who being the brightness of His Glory and the exact same image and the exact same substance as God.” Jesus stated unequivocally that He and the Father are one and the same, Jn 10:30; 17:11, and also “that they may be one as We are” and v. 21 “that they may be one, as You Father are in Me and I in You.” There won’t be two or three persons on the throne of Heaven but God Almighty who is three in one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit!!!

Whenever the likeness of God is described in the Bible, He is described with attributes similar to that of humans. In Exodus 24:10 the elders of Israel “saw the God of Israel” like a human form on His throne with his feet resting on paved Sapphire stones. They knew He was God but did not see his face because no one could see God’s face and live. Perhaps they could have looked but did not dare to do so. A similar vision occurs in Ezekiel 1:26-28 but it is more detailed including the statement that the “likeness (*demuth*) on the throne was the likeness (*demuth*) as the appearance of a man,” also used in v. 28 “likeness” (*demuth*), i.e. human.

Your physical form has the appearance of spiritual beings such as angels and the same shape or form as God Himself. This fact adds to the dignity and worth of human life. It also explains why God intends to resurrect human beings from the dead. Why would God raise these sinful mortal bodies in which we now live? Because our bodies are His temple (1 Cor. 6:19) and they bear the mark of His own image! So, he will resurrect and glorify them (1 Cor. 15:14). We are sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body; sown a corruptible, decaying body, raised incorruptible eternal body; sown a mortal body, subject to death, raised an immortal body destined for eternal life(see 1 Cor 15:52-58; Jn. 3:16).

Lamar E. Cooper, Sr.