

Created in God's Image — Lost Through Sin, Restored Through Christ

By Dr. Hans Petter Thue

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Introduction

"Good morning. There is no question more important than the one of identity: Who are we, and why are we here? Today, we are unpacking the divine trajectory of human life in our message, 'Created in God's Image — Lost Through Sin, Restored Through Christ.'

We will begin in Genesis with the breathtaking truth of our original design, confront the reality of how sin damaged that image, and ultimately discover the hope of restoration through the blood of Jesus.

This isn't just about forgiveness; it's about recovering the dignity, purpose, and fellowship we were born for. Whether you are grappling with generational patterns, seeking understanding about children and innocence, or longing for the power of being born again, this message is for you. Let's open our hearts to see how God restores what was lost and makes us a new creation."

1. God Created Mankind in His Own Image

The Bible begins with a breathtaking declaration of human dignity:

> "So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."

— Genesis 1:27

To be made in God's image means:

- We were created to reflect His character
- We were designed for fellowship with Him
- We were given authority and purpose
- We were created with a spirit capable of knowing God

Humanity was handcrafted by God with intention, value, and glory.

> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you."

— Jeremiah 1:5

Before any human sees the light of day, God has already seen, known, and designed them.

2. Are We Still Born in God's Image After Sin Entered the World?

Yes — but the image is damaged, not destroyed.
After the fall, mankind still bears God's image:

> “Whoever sheds human blood... for in the image of God has God made mankind.”
— Genesis 9:6

This is after the fall, after sin, after corruption.
The image remains — but it is distorted, darkened, and spiritually dead.

3. A Newborn Child: Innocent and Belonging to God

Jesus made something very clear:

> “Let the little children come to Me... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”
— Matthew 19:14

A newborn child:

- Has no personal sin
- Has a pure conscience
- Has not yet chosen rebellion
- Belongs to the care and kingdom of Jesus

Children reflect the humility, trust, and purity God desires.

4. Free Will: The Doorway to Temptation

God created humans with free will — the ability to choose love, obedience, and truth.

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But the enemy uses this freedom against us.

> “Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”
— 2 Corinthians 11:14

Temptation often looks:

- Pleasant
- Harmless
- Attractive
- “Good for gaining wisdom” (Genesis 3:6)

Just like Eve, we eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil — but without God's wisdom to use that knowledge rightly.



5. Family Influence, Demonic Patterns, and Spiritual Blindness

Children grow up shaped by the spiritual atmosphere around them.

If a family is under:

- Sin
- Bondage
- Occult influence
- Addiction
- Anger
- Immorality
- Generational curses

...then the child absorbs that environment.

The Bible warns:

> “Bad company corrupts good character.”
— 1 Corinthians 15:33

Over time:

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- Conscience becomes dull
- The heart becomes hardened
- The spirit becomes blind
- Sin becomes normal
- Darkness becomes comfortable

Eventually, a person becomes spiritually dead:

> “You were dead in your trespasses and sins.”
— Ephesians 2:1

This is why Jesus said we must be born again.

6. The Necessity of Being Born Again

Jesus declared:

> “No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”
— John 3:3

Why?

Because the old nature:

- Is corrupted
- Is enslaved to sin
- Cannot please God
- Cannot reflect His image

Through water baptism and faith in Christ, something supernatural happens:

> “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”
— 2 Corinthians 5:17

This is not symbolic — it is spiritual rebirth.

7. A New Heart, A New Spirit, A New Identity

God promised:

> “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.”
— Ezekiel 36:26

When we are born again:

- Our heart is circumcised
- Fleshly desires are cut away
- The Holy Spirit enters us
- Our conscience is awakened
- Our spiritual eyes open
- Our identity is restored

We receive a new bloodline — the blood of Jesus.

We become:

- Children of God
- Citizens of heaven
- Heirs with Christ
- A royal priesthood

The image of God is restored in us through Christ.

8. Restored Back Into God's Original Plan

Salvation is not just forgiveness — it is restoration.

Through Jesus:

- We return to God's design
- We walk in His purpose
- We reflect His character
- We live by His Spirit

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- We become like Christ

> “Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

— Ephesians 4:24

This is the full restoration of the image of God.

Conclusion: From Creation, Through Corruption, Into Restoration

Created in God's image

→ Corrupted by sin

→ Influenced by darkness

→ Spiritually dead

→ Born again through Christ

→ Restored into God's image

→ Given a new heart, new spirit, new identity, new bloodline

This is the gospel story written into every human life.