

Some theologians have suggested that the difference between the broader and narrower senses of the image is that fallen human beings still retain the personal faculties and capabilities with which God created them, but use these faculties and capabilities in sinful ways, i.e., abuse and pervert God's good gifts. This is a helpful insight, provided we realize that the image in the broader sense has also been corrupted by sin.

c. Christ was and is the perfect Image of God, in both the broader and the narrower senses.

John 1:14, 18 -- "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him."

John 14:7-9 -- "If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.' Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, "Show us the Father?" ' "

II Corinthians 4:3-4 -- "and even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

Colossians 1:15 -- "And He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation."

Hebrews 1:3 -- "And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power."

d. The restoration of believers to the very image and likeness of Christ is the great goal of personal salvation.

This restoration is progressive, involves growth and development, and will be completed at the Second Coming of Christ.

Romans 8:29-30 -- "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first born among many brethren; and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."

II Corinthians 3:18 -- "But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same Image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."