

Living in the Image of God

Part 2: The Essence

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What We Will Learn

- In the 2nd part
- Of Sermon on the Mount
- Christ describes the essence
- Of living in the image of God
- Using examples
- Matthew 5:13–48
- Matthew 6

Find and Perform Your Purpose

- In every situation
- Find and serve God's purpose for you
 - Conveyor of image of God
 - Channel for God's compassion
- A person that does not do this
- Is like salt that lost its saltiness
- Suitable only for destruction
- Matthew 5:13–16

Matthew 5 (NIV)

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Matthew 5 (NIV)

15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Focus Not on Commandments

- You will satisfy the commandments
- If you live in the image of God
- Do not focus on the commandments
- Living in the image of God means more
- Matthew 5:17–20
- Examples on murder, adultery, divorce,
- Oaths, vengeance, and love

Matthew 5 (NIV)

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

Matthew 5 (NIV)

19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5 (NIV)

20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Example: Do Not Commit Murder

- Living in the image of God
- Means peace, love, respect, care ...
- State of mind far from murder
- If you focus on the commandment
- You could satisfy “do not commit murder...”
- But still relate to others in anger
- Matthew 5:21–24

Matthew 5 (NIV)

21 “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’

22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Matthew 5 (NIV)

23 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you,

24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Focus Not on Commandments: Summary

- Living in the image of God, you will hold yourself to a standard that includes satisfying the commandments
- Focusing on the commandments, you would hold yourself to a lower standard that does not include several things needed to live in the image of God:
 - Salt that has lost its saltiness

Focus Not on Impressing Others

- If your motivation is to impress others
- You could impress them
- But that alone would be your reward
- If your motivation is to please God
- By living in the image of God
- He will reward you
- Giving to the needy, prayer, and fasting
- Matthew 6:1–18 [5–8 read in session]

Matthew 6 (NIV)

5 “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew 6 (NIV)

7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Focus Not on Impressing People

Example: Prayer

- Your only motivation should be to communicate with God
- Do not seek to impress others
- Pray from your heart
- Echo with your mouth as your heart dictates
- And talking to God is your only motivation

Focus Not on Wealth Accumulation

- You earn blessing (treasures in heaven)
- By living in the image of God
- God protects earned blessing
- For ever for you
- Earned blessing is God's promise
- And will be fulfilled
- Matthew 6:19–24 [19–21 read in session]

Matthew 6 (NIV)

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Focus Not on Your Welfare

- Do not worry about your welfare
- God will take care of your needs
- If you live in the image of God
- Matthew 6:25–34 [25–27 read in session]

Matthew 6 (NIV)

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?”

26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

Matthew 6 (NIV)

27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

What We Learned

- Christ describes the essence
- Of living in the image of God
- In Sermon on the Mount 2nd part
- Find and perform your purpose
- In every situation
- Living in the image of God
- Includes satisfying the commandments
- But do not focus on the commandments

What We Learned cont'd

- Focus on pleasing God
- Not on impressing other people
- Do not focus on wealth accumulation
- Or worry about your welfare
- God will take care of these
- If you live in the image of God