



# What Does It Mean to Be Made in God's Image?

Have you ever wondered what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God?

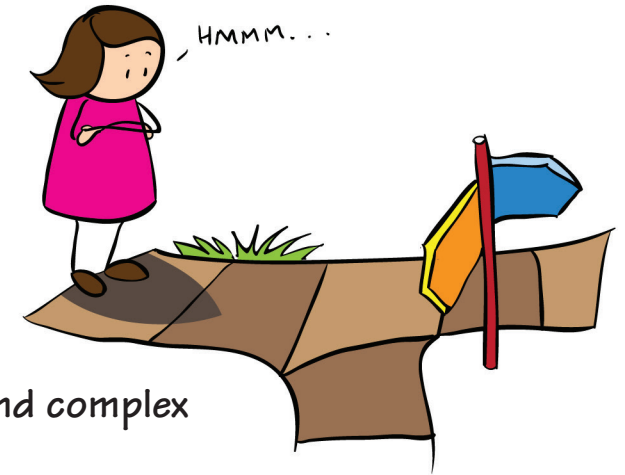
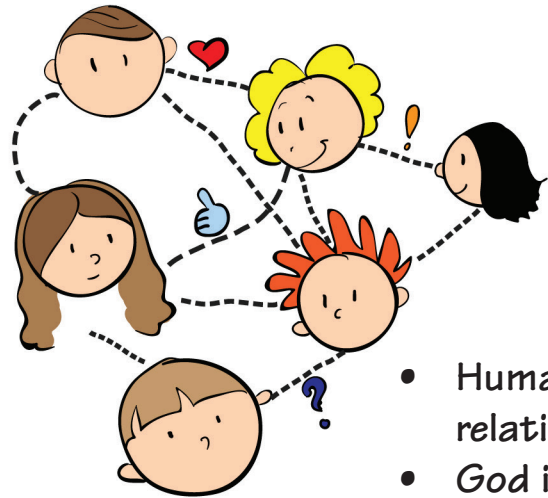
In Genesis 1:26–27 (ESV), the Bible says, “God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness’ ... So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him.”

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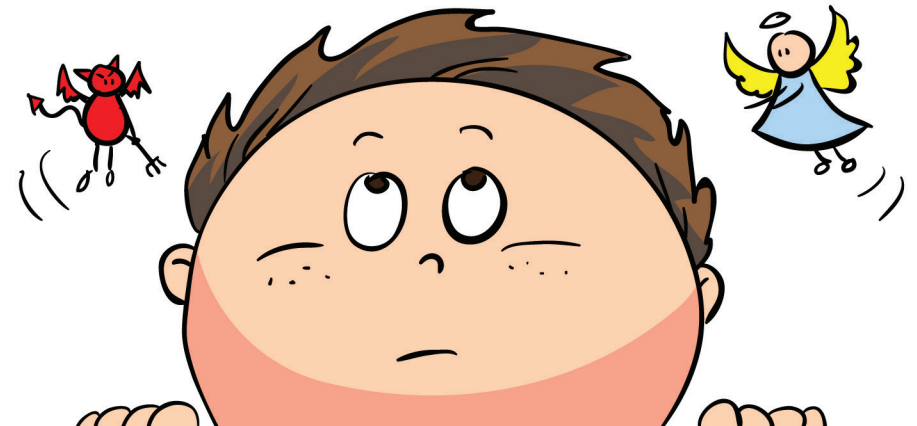
The Hebrew word used for *image* means a likeness, or image. Another meaning of image would be something that represents something else. The Hebrew word translated as *likeness* means similar, or in the likeness of. So in speaking about the kind of creature He was going to make, God said He would make humans similar to Himself, in the way that a picture is like the original, but is neither the original nor exactly the same as it.

As humans are the only creatures that God states are made in His image and likeness, this makes humans significantly different from all of the animal creation. Following are some of the ways we can see that humans have similarities with God, which His other earthly creations don't have or don't have to the same degree.



- Humans are personal beings. We create deep friendships and complex relationships with others.
- God is spirit; human beings have a spirit.
- We have self-awareness; we are aware of ourselves and of our own existence. We can know, examine, and judge ourselves.
- We have the ability to choose among options, and having decided on an option, we can move toward achieving that goal.
- We are moral beings and have an inner sense of right and wrong.

THIS  
IS ME!





- Our spirits are immortal in that they live forever after the body's death. God has always existed and immortality is part of who He is.
- We have the ability to think logically, to reason, to be aware of the past, present, and future.
- We are creative. While we don't create to the degree that God does, we possess creativity of ideas and thought, and thus can "create" new music, art, or literature. We can think of new ideas and possibilities and bring them into being.
- We use complex language to communicate.
- We experience a wide range of emotions. Some animals show a few emotions, but the variety of emotions in humans surpasses that of animals.



I'M LATE!

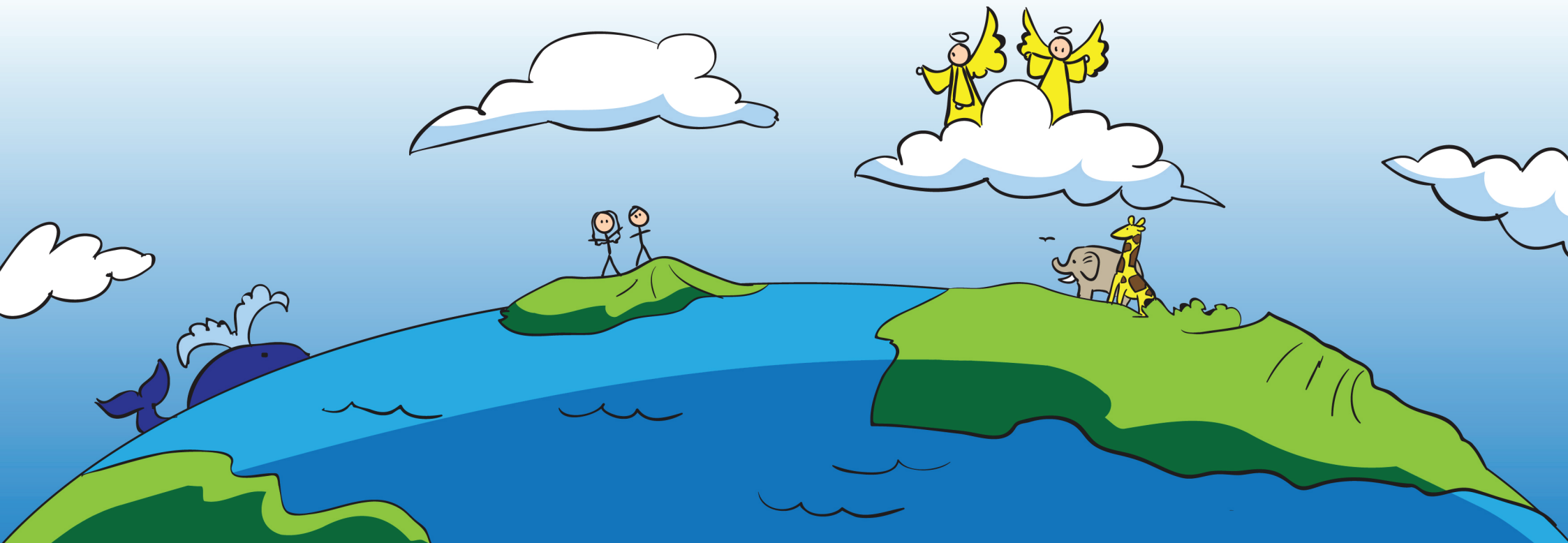


Being the only part of creation that God said is made in His image and likeness shows that human beings are special in God's eyes. The Bible states that humankind is at the top of God's creation, and that God put man in place to rule and take care of the earth.



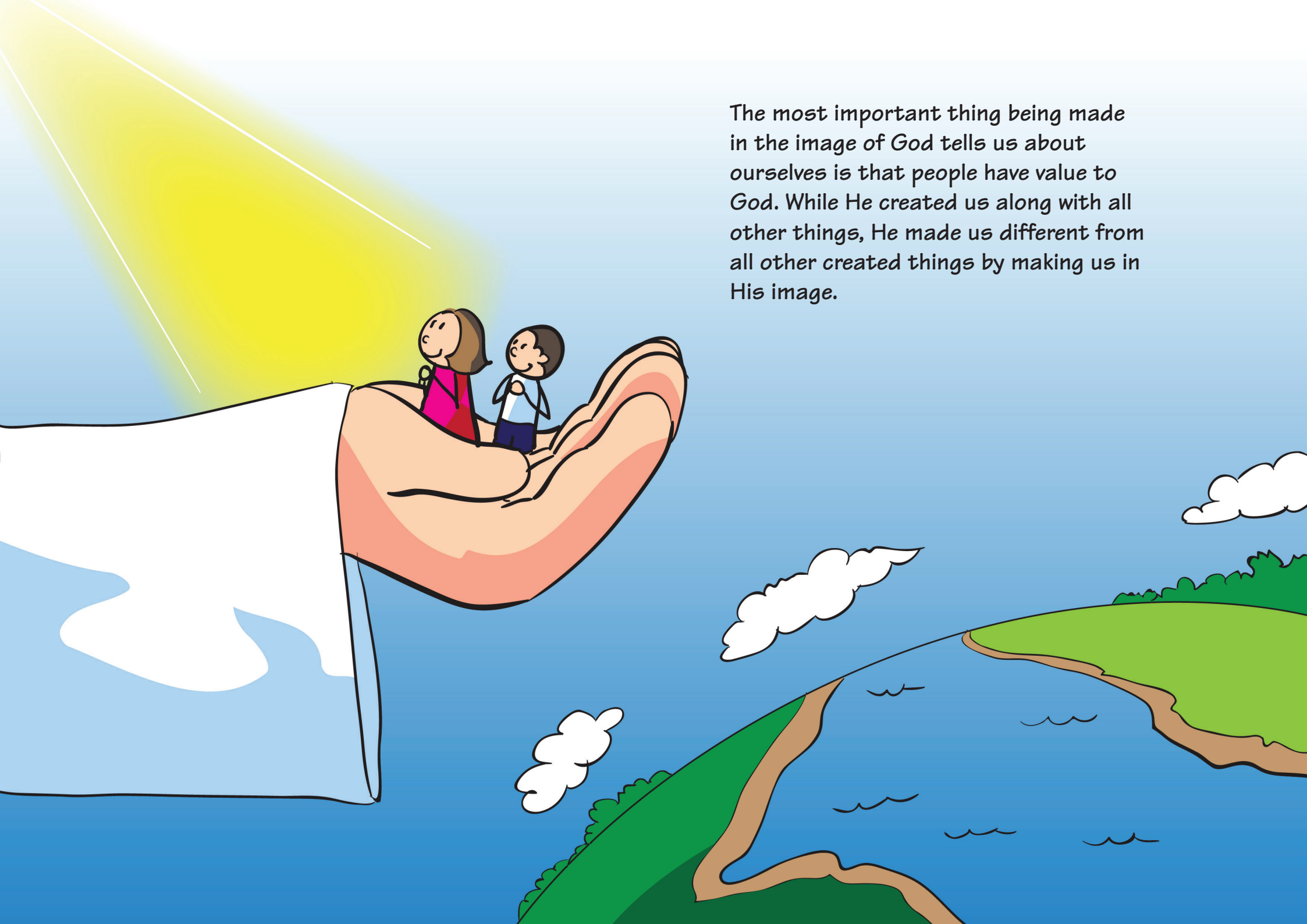
*What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas (Psalm 8:4–8 ESV).*

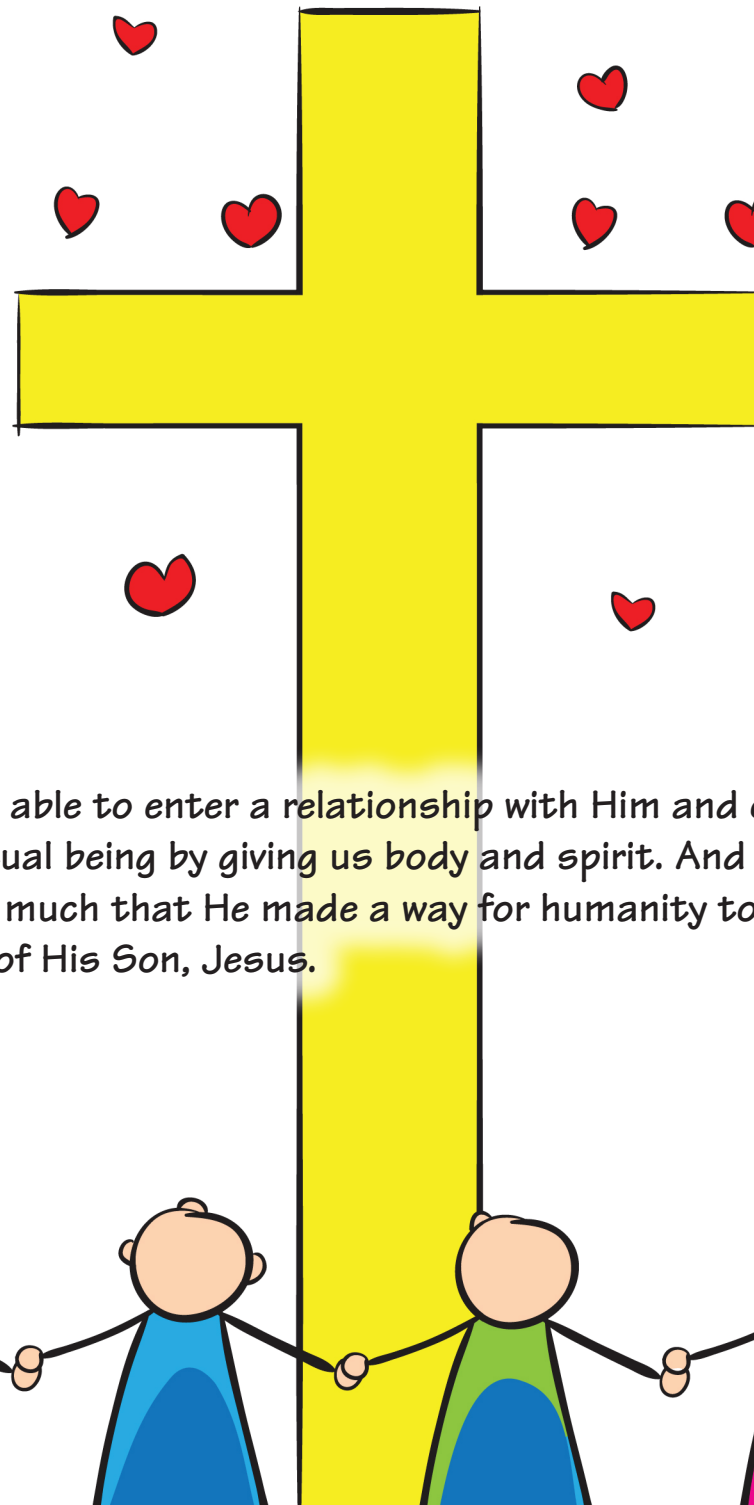
*So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:27–28 ESV).*



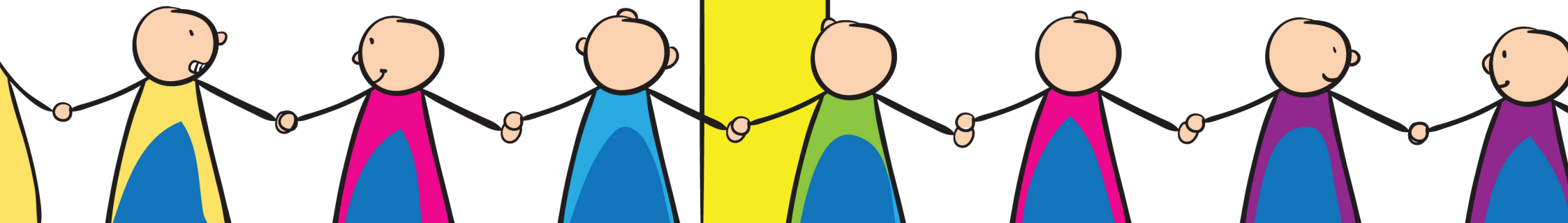


The most important thing being made in the image of God tells us about ourselves is that people have value to God. While He created us along with all other things, He made us different from all other created things by making us in His image.

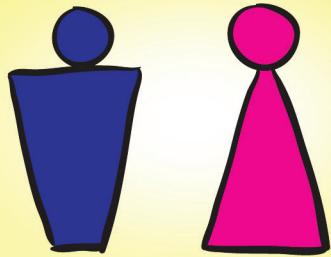




He made us personal beings, able to enter a relationship with Him and other humans. He made us a combined physical and spiritual being by giving us body and spirit. And even though all humans have a sinful nature, He loves us so much that He made a way for humanity to be restored to Him through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus.



God loves His image-bearing creations, and every person has value to Him. This should cause us to value every person in return. Nothing lessens an individual person's worth to God.

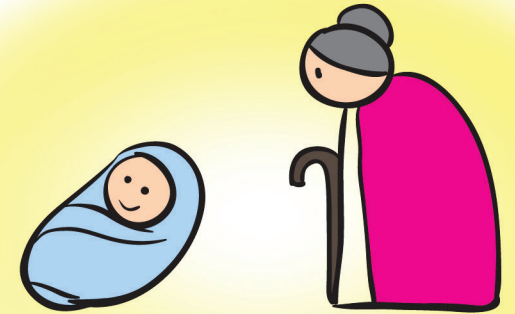


Humans, no matter where they come from, what they look like, whether they are male or female,



the sick, the handicapped, the hungry, those you disagree with, people you don't naturally like, every human—no matter what their condition,

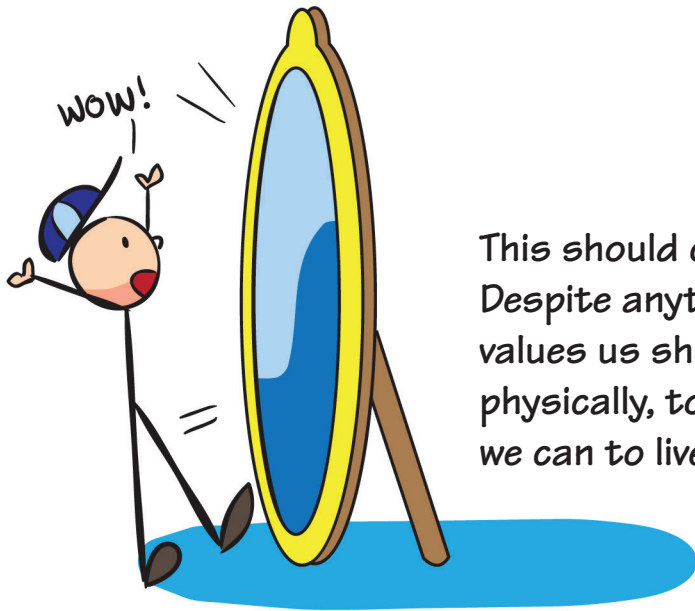
# God's Love



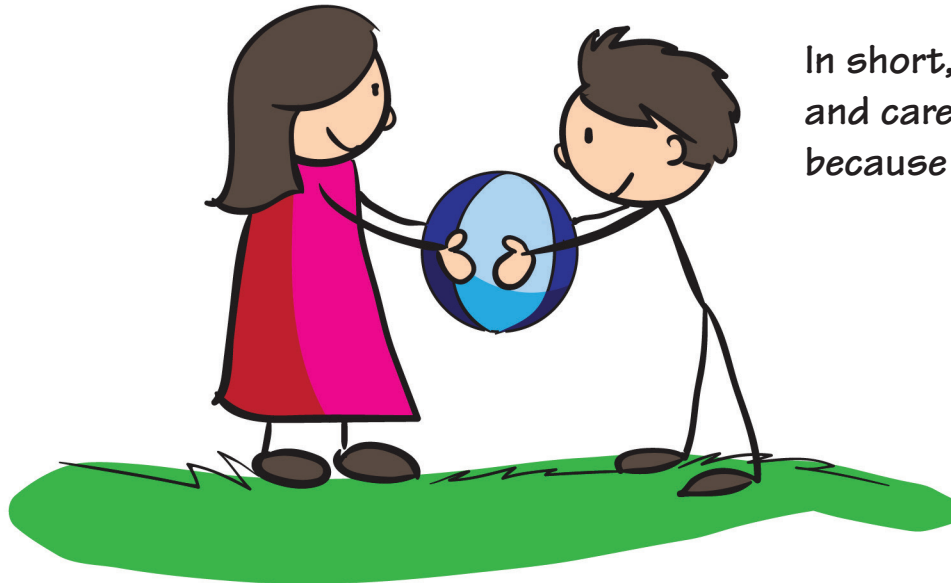
newborns, children, the elderly,



circumstance, or religious belief—bears God's image and should each be given honor and respect.



This should cause us to look at and treat ourselves with respect and dignity. Despite anything we may not like about ourselves, knowing that God loves and values us should help us to view ourselves positively, to take care of ourselves physically, to nurture our spirits with positive and godly input, and to do what we can to live in harmony and peace with others.



In short, we should love and care for our neighbor, because God does.

