

**SERMON: Delivered 11 17 19**

**“We Are Created In God’s Image – Mirror Image Of God” by Elder Beatrice Muma**

**Exodus 34: 29 – 35; John 14: 8 – 11; John 17: 20 – 26; 2 Corinthians 3: 7 - 18(Sermon)**

Good morning church and thank you Pastors’ Ed, Anita, and Donna for allowing me to share your pulpit today.

It is an honor for me and the youth to lead the service of today, and also share in the message. Our message today focuses on us, reminding us we are created in God’s image, thus making us a mirror image of God.

About 10 years ago, I had to take a bible class because it was required by the catholic college I was attending at the time.

I have no recollection of the title of the book we were studying, but I have a vivid recollection of my lecturer who happened to be a Catholic sister, and a very stern one I remember.

I also remember the class was so difficult, I could hardly understand what most of the passages meant.

There is one thing I remember from the class which was also an AHA moment for me.

The passage was focused on us being an image of God.

Yes that is one of the first chapters in The Book of Genesis, so everyone knows that, even a 3 year old child would know that.

But, I tell you, we could not understand this passage from the perspective through which it was written.

I only got one thing out of that passage; we are a mirror image of God.

We are created in God’s image means we are spiritual beings since God is a spirit.

Our spirits are temporally housed in our physical bodies while we are on earth, and our spirits will live forever since God is eternal.

Since God is holy, we were therefore created as holy beings, but sin in our life keeps us from being holy.

We were created in God’s image so that we can reflect all of God’s holy characteristics.

There is one problem that seems to hide the glory that we are supposed to be reflecting to the people around us.

“Sin is that problem”.

Genesis 1:26 tells us, *“Then God said let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness,* Verse 27 says, *“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female, he created them.”*

Our sermon is focused on how God does not only want us to look like Him, but to be like Him as we walk with him daily.

Permit me to use the analogy of an actual mirror.

Most people own a mirror or two or three in their homes.

I bet you many of us have one right by the door so we can have a quick look in it on our way out

We have also learned to trust the accuracy of the mirror, isn't it?

Why?

Because it us feedback like, am I presentable, is my shirt wrinkled, does my hair look okay?

Do I have something stuck between my teeth?

Quite frankly we depend on the mirror to show us the truth.

What if the mirror was off?

Has anyone heard of some dress shops with mirrors that have been designed to make us look a certain way?

Now Imagine a mirror that reflects our hearts, meaning our spiritual condition, is that mirror accurate?

God is the mirror we need.

He created us in his image and knows us better than we even know ourselves.

Through his word, and through the influence of the Holy Spirit, we are able to get an accurate picture of our condition.

We say the word glory a lot, but most of us do not have a good understanding that God's Glory is actually the physical manifestations of God's characteristics, which include but are not limited to love, peace, joy, hope, forgiveness, patience, compassion and many more;

In 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:7 we read that a man ought not to cover his head since he is the image and glory of God.

In Exodus 35: 29 we also witness this glory of God reflected in Moses when he comes down from Mount Sinai having been in the presence of God.

God's Glory shines so bright that he had to cover his face with a veil when he is talking to the children of Israel, he was not even aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with God, and this happened each time Moses was in the presence of The Lord.

This even made them afraid to come near Moses as he radiated God's Glory.

Brothers and sisters, each and every one of us is created in God's image.

We were created to be a conscious mirror of God's image.

We were created to consciously reflect His glory, just like Moses did, and even deep within our pride, our cravings for the desires of the heart, even our love for power or influence is the longing to be a mirror of God, and I say to you today, the value of a mirror is not in its self, but in its potential to let something else be seen, and the only way for us to reflect that is through prayer, and to even make this more clear, the value of prayer is not in itself but in the potential to let the glory, power and beauty of God be seen in us.

In our lesson from John we read that Jesus prayed that all believers would see His Glory.

He prayed saying ***“Father I want those you have given me to be with me where I am and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world”*** Jesus again in verse 22 makes this profound statement that we do not want to miss when he says; ***“I have given them the glory that you gave to me, and they may be one as we are one.*** (John 17:22)

So praying is the way we mirror God.

If we are right that we are all created in the image of God, then we also have the deep desire to be a mirror image of God, and even when we don't feel like it sometimes, it is buried in our subconscious that longing to reflect Christ when we look in the mirror, “praying”.

Since a mirror is utterly dependent on a source of light outside of itself, prayer is the posture of the child utterly dependent on the resources and kindness of the Heavenly Father.

Church, we are being transformed into the image of Christ.

We are becoming more and more like Jesus, we are reflecting Him more and more the longer we are beholding to Him giving everyone a chance to see bit more of Him in us when we allow His spirit and glory to dwell in us.

The reason we have been given the glory of The Lord is so that the non-believers God has put in our life will see the glory of The Lord in us and they will be drawn to Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:8 is a command; “*you shall be my witnesses*”

John 14 tells us that we have been given the power to minister in Jesus name to bring glory to The Father.

Church, if we are going to reflect God’s glory, we need to spend more quality time with The Lord in prayer and Bible study each and every day.

Romans 8:29 tells us that God has always intended for us to be conformed to the likeness of His Son.

If we are fully turned towards him, it will result in us becoming a mirror image of him “Christ like”.

The transformation will be the work of the Holy Spirit and it will last for eternity.

Amen