

## 6th Introduction

For Discussion 1-9-11

**You shall not murder** (Ex. 20.13, ESV) reveals God as the Lord of life and death. Therefore, Clowney draws attention to the following basic themes that grow out of the sixth commandment: the right value of human life applied in capital punishment (versus pacifism) because man is made in the image of God. His concern, on how Jesus transforms the commandment, is twofold: Jesus teaches the heart-reaching depth of the commandment and His remedy for our sins against it. He gives life by His death and resurrection, “Those who would claim to be pro-life must be pro-Life: pro-Lord of Life” (84).

Of interest to me is the fact that naturalistic Darwinian evolutionists devalue human life complaining that the idea of the creation of man makes man special: “If humans are just one of many outcomes of natural selection, maybe we aren’t so special after all” (Coyne, xvi). Clearly, Coyne, like many of his comrades, does not mean this “maybe” in a questioning way. To him, it is simply a form of religious pride to claim that man is the image of his Creator. However, Coyne has a “creator” that he praises (and worships) throughout his book; he stands in awe and marvels at what natural selection “creates” and “accomplishes” (121). Does it then come as a surprise that by default it turns out that man is the highest living and most intelligent being that exists? Does it surprise us that scientists (that is, naturalistic scientists) are the privileged few that know the truth and that biologists who lack conviction about evolution do so because of ignorance (xvi-xix)?

Q: What is your response to the claim that the idea of being created in the image of God is prideful? [*It is humbling to acknowledge our comparative smallness before our Creator, to worship him and not the creation or ourselves, and to voice our dependence on Him as people under His authority*]

There are not many texts in Scripture on man as the image of God. From the following passages, how can we answer two basic questions: a) what does it mean to be the image of God? b) How can we move in thought from the image to the duty we have to promote both the physical and the spiritual life of our neighbor? *See below for some answers.*

Gen 1.26-27: Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

Gen 2.15-17: “The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”

Gen 9.6: “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image”

Eph 4.20-24: “But that is not the way you learned Christ!—assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness”

Col 3.9: “Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”

James 3.8-10: “no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so”

*a) to be the image of God means that we (male and female) are His image bearers that reflect Him in the world in true righteousness and holiness, and we still do that even in the fall though now our image bearing is severely corrupted by sin.*

*b) We move from image to the promotion of man's physical life by noting the reason for capital punishment...because the life the murder took was the image of God, Gen. 9.6.*

*We move from man as the image to the promotion of man's spiritual life 1) by noting that man is a spiritual-material unity, so, to promote man's life we must promote what he is in his wholeness, 2) by noting the fact that the image remains but is marred by sin, we know that all people that we come in contact with are people that need restoration in the image of God for the saving of their lives. That may be definitively, by coming to Christ, or it may be progressively by growing in the grace and knowledge of God.*