

## Term 2: REPRESENT

### Sermon: Image-Bearers (Title Slide)

Intro game: Guess that logo

Punchline: Notice how effortless you were able to recognise the logos, even though you couldn't see all of it.

(Slide 1– Verse and header: Created in His Image)

#### **Genesis 1:26-27 CSB**

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.” 27So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

**1. We were created in God’s image and likeness. We are His image bearers. When people look at us, they should recognise God.**

- When you look at a glove, what is the “image” that it resembles? A hand. When you look at a glove, you recognise the shape of a hand. The glove itself isn’t a hand, and could never be a hand or function as a hand, but it was designed to replicate the image and likeness of it.

- In the same way, we were created to represent God. We could never be God ourselves, but we were designed to replicate His image and likeness. In the very same way that we could effortlessly recognise those logos, we should live in such a way that we make God recognisable.
- There is no other creature created by the Creator in all creation with the capacity to carry His presence. We humans were intentionally designed with the ability to have something greater inside of us. I've never heard anyone say "Man, when my dog enters the room, there's just this presence". But we humans were made to contain His presence inside of us, just as a glove was designed to carry something bigger than itself inside of it. We were made in His image and likeness.
- John 15:1-5  
"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

(Slide 2)

## **Galatians 2:20 CSB**

I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

### **2. It's not about us.**

- Our metaphorical glove might one day come to think that, because it was so uniquely designed to carry the image of something greater than itself, it is **very** important.
- The glove should realise that, yes, it is capable of great things; it has the capacity to lift/hold/carry/communicate etc., but not through its own power. It can't accomplish anything by itself, just as we read in John Ch. 15. It is reliant on something greater than itself to be brought into purposeful fulfilment. We don't own the power; we are merely vessels through which God's power can be displayed.
- We live in a society where the cultural norm is "me me me". Everything is so self-focused. Scripture says in Luke 9:23 "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me." If you say that you're a Christian, that means you have died to your old self, and Christ lives through you and guides you and directs you in the ways of righteousness according to His perfect will.

- Story: student borrowing a pen from the head principle.  
Punchline: If the student walked into the principal's office with an arrogant attitude, he wouldn't be very likely to get the pen. Just because he was sent by a teacher, doesn't mean he holds the authority of the teacher or that the principle should treat him as if though he were the teacher. It isn't about the student, it's about who sent him.
- We are moving into dangerous territory if we claim to be Christians only for the benefits we get from it. The glove doesn't ask "What's in it for me?" when the hand wants to do something. People used to be prosecuted and even killed if they mentioned they were Christians, and today, it's gotten almost too easy to throw those words around... We need to realise that being a Christian isn't about us. Being an image bearer **means** something more.

(Slide 3)

### **Matthew 5:16 CSB**

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

### **3. Live as ambassadors**

- If the world sees the Adidas logo and thinks of those sleek sneakers, or if they see the ... what would people think of God if they looked at your life?

- As believers and followers of Christ, it is crucial that we honestly & critically assess and evaluate how we are displaying God to the world.
- “You either become a Christian because of another Christian, or you don’t want to become a Christian because of another Christian”. We need to ask ourselves what type of ambassadors we are.
- What’s the difference between a saved and an unsaved person if they both look/sound/act the same?
- Cookies on the bottom shelf - let me help you out here: say you **really** wanted to get in shape and start living healthier and start going to the gym, would you trust an overweight gym trainer? Exactly. BUT he goes to the gym every week, and he reads the gym rat magazine every morning, and he talks with the manager on a regular basis... Here’s the thing, there’s no difference between him and the average person, therefore there’s no proof that he works out.
- Do you look different than the rest of the world? Or do you look shockingly similar to the world?

- Paul says to the church in Corinth “Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.” Let us live in a way that if someone followed in our footsteps, they would find Christ. Learn to love, to serve, to have self-control and humility, kindness, joy. By the way, the fruit of the spirit isn’t something we were supposed to achieve through our own efforts. When God lives in you and guides your steps, the fruits thereof will be love, joy, peace, etc.
- Don’t justify what God wants to sanctify. Allow God to remove the things from your life that don’t represent Him well.

(Slide 4)

### **Conclusion**

We were made in His image, not for us to be glorified, but to live as representatives for Him to be glorified.

Prayer points:

If you want to give your life to Jesus

If you want to turn from a consumerism faith to a living faith