

"The Image Of God" (Genesis 1:24-31)

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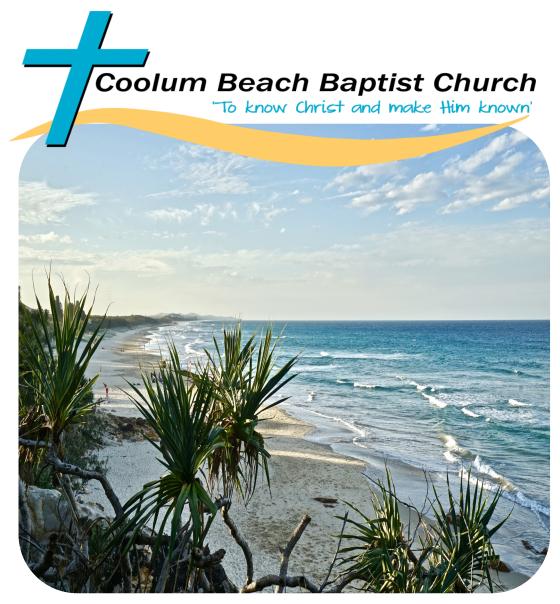


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"So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)

18

9AM Pastor Harrison

February "The Image Of God" (Genesis 1:24-31)



# THE IMAGE OF GOD

"So, God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)

To be made in the image of God means to reflect something of God's nature and character to the rest of creation. And there are a few ways we do this. The first is through our natural capacity for goodness, love, mercy, justice, compassion, and even, with the Holy Spirit's help, holiness. These are all attributes we share with God and He calls us to demonstrate in this world. The second is through our actions. God gave humans dominion, or authority, over creation. We are called to care for all God has made, seeking to make the most of it for His glory. The third is through our relationships. God is a relational being who eternally exists in a joyful relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As His image bearers we are meant to live in relationship with one another and with Him. Sadly, because of sin we do not bear the image of God perfectly. However, just because sin distorts and disrupts our image bearing, it does not destroy it completely. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can still strive to be perfect image bearers by following the example of Christ – who reflects all of God's attributes, fulfills His will, and enjoys a perfect relationship with the Father. That's why God promises to work in our life, in order to help us be 'conformed to the image of Christ' (Rmns 8:28-29).

A woman watched a silversmith as he heated a piece of silver over the fire in order to burn away all the impurities. The silversmith said that he had to watch the silver carefully because if it was left even a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman asked, "But how do you know when the silver is fully refined?" "Oh, that's easy," he answered, "When I see my image reflected in it." Like the silversmith looking into the precious metal, Christ desires to see His image reflected in our lives. Do you reflect God's righteousness and holiness in your daily life? Can others see Christ's image in what you say and do? This is not only a humbling thought, but it is also a thrilling thought that we have the opportunity to reflect the image of our Saviour and Creator. During trials and troubles reflect Christ's joy and strength. During temptation, reflect the power and righteousness of Christ. During periods of blessing, reflect His graciousness and love. The process of becoming more Christ-like may, at times, be painful as God allows "fires" to remove our impurities. But even then, we can rejoice knowing that the end result is a clearer image bearing reflection of Christ our Saviour and God our Father.

God bless. Pastor John.

Prayer Points

- Pray for transforming revival and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Australia, that the gospel will be preached in power.
- Pray For our congregational meeting next Sunday for unity, wisdom, discernment and god's will to be done.
- Pray for the Manirakizas (Jean-Claude & Joyce) as the work with the Mayo people in Malawi and Mozambique.
- Praise the Lord that His way is perfect and His Word is truth. (Psalm 18:30)

What's on?

MONDAY 5PM Walking Soccer

TUESDAY 9:30AM Playgroup

WEDNESDAY
9AM Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY
9AM Quilters

FRIDAY 9:30AM Playgroup 4PM Kids Ignite & Youth



If you would like to know more about our Home Groups, contact Pastor John 0408 402 476

BIRTHDAYS: 19th Richard Van Eck, 20th Karen Chalmers, 24th Tim Rushbrook

# MENTORING/DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Third and Final night is on tonight at the church at 7pm.

## 2024 SOCCER SEASON UPDATE

We have 14 teams this year (two more than last year) and we are starting practices on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons this week. The first games of the season start on Saturday 2nd March.

#### FREE MISSION'S LUNCH

After church TODAY, Trisha (Homes Of Hope) will be hosting a free lunch in the church hall. It will be a Sri Lankan curry (chicken or vegetable), with pumpkin dahl, coconut sambal and pilau rice. All gluten free, with chilli on the side. For dessert there will be ice cream and mango.

#### SOS OUTING

On Thursday 29th February at the Botanical Gardens at Stonebridge Gardens at Palmwoods,. Arriving at 11am for a walk around the gardens and an A La Carte lunch (pay for your own). If you able to come, or want more information, please contact Anneli on 0.427.795.112

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

After the worship service next Sunday 25th February. At the meeting we will be welcoming some new members (hopefully) as well as considering some issues relating to the impending departure of Pastor John. These issues include the approval of a pastoral search committee, the extension of Harrison's call and the outline of the process the leadership is planning to follow. Everyone in our church family is invited to attend (although only members will be allowed to vote).