

A FIELD GUIDE ON



**GENDER AND  
SEXUALITY**

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*A Field Guide on Gender and Sexuality*

© 2024 by Ligonier Ministries

Published by Ligonier Ministries  
421 Ligonier Court, Sanford, FL 32771  
Ligonier.org

Printed in China  
Amity Printing Company  
0000724  
First edition, second printing

ISBN 978-1-64289-644-2 (Paperback)

ISBN 978-1-64289-645-9 (ePub)

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Cover design: Ligonier Creative  
Interior design and typeset: Ligonier Editorial

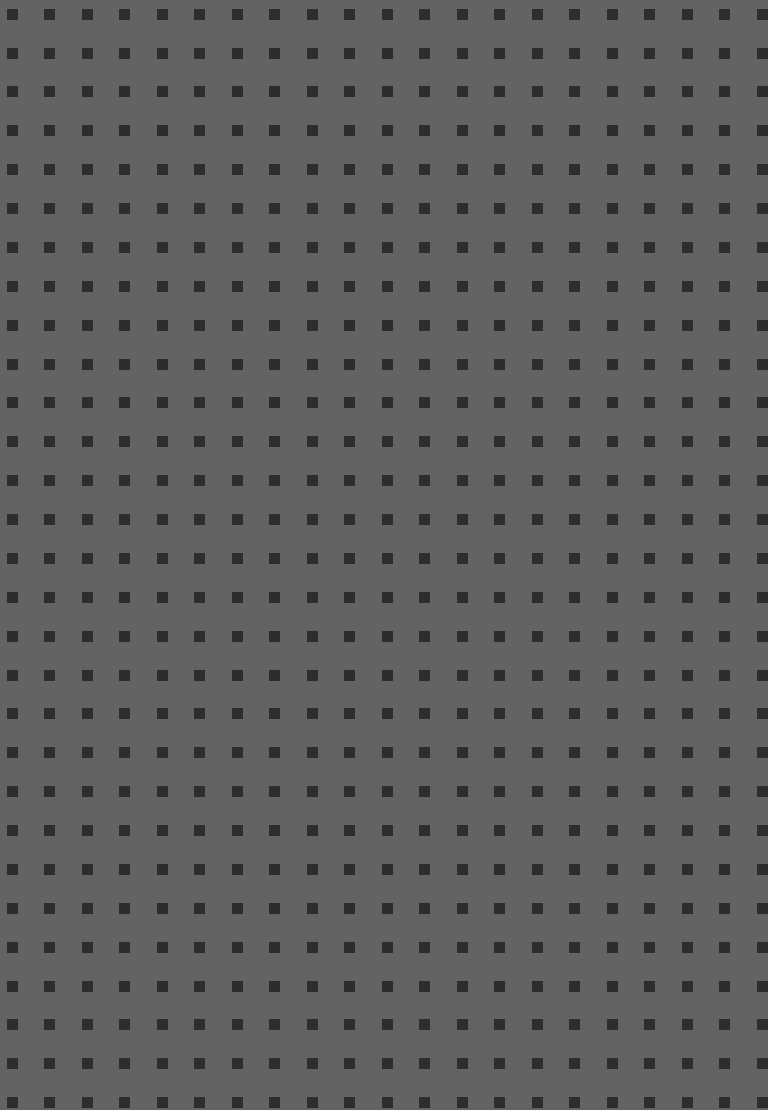
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Library of Congress Control Number: 2024933492

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LIGONIER MINISTRIES





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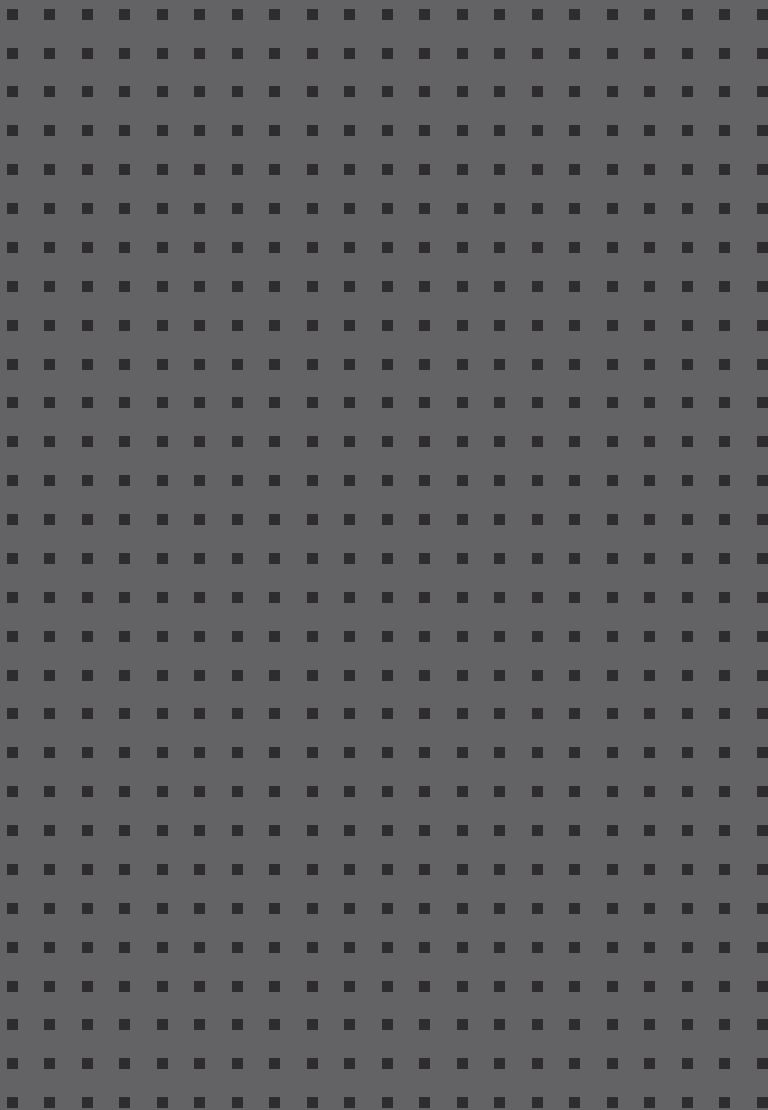
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I.

BEING  
HUMAN





**THE WORLD** is confused about sex, gender, and identity. Christians have a solid foundation for understanding these subjects, however, because the Bible tells us that we were created by God in His image (Gen. 1:26). Based on Scripture, this section answers questions related to what it means to be human.

BEING HUMAN

# QUESTIONS ANSWERED

## **What does it mean to be made in the image of God?**

To be made in the image of God means that human beings reflect the glory, character, and rule of God in a way that other creatures do not. Therefore, we as human beings have a greater dignity than other creatures. Scripture first mentions human beings in Genesis 1, explaining that God created mankind in His image, both males and females (v. 27). The wider historical context of Genesis and the specific commands given in Genesis 1:26–28 give us the



most important information for understanding what it means to be God's image bearers.

The first readers of the book of Genesis were familiar with images of the king that were used in the surrounding pagan empires. These were statues and other physical depictions of the king, who was often considered to be a god himself as well as an image of the pagan gods. These statues were set up throughout the empire to call attention to the king and to remind people of who was really in charge (e.g., Dan. 3:1–7). In light of this context, that human beings are physical images of the one true God indicates that part of what it means to bear God's image is to show creation that God is King and is to be served. Furthermore, that Scripture views all people as God's image bearers and not just the king, as in the pagan empires, shows that all people have an inherent worth and dignity because all people reflect God. Sin has marred this image, so we do not reflect God as we ought, but the image has not been lost entirely.

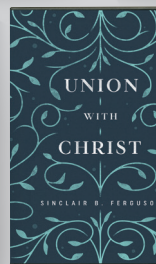
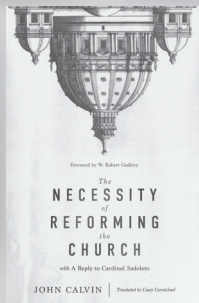
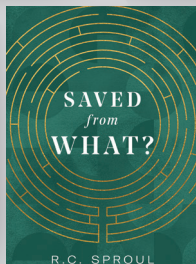
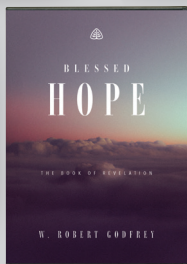
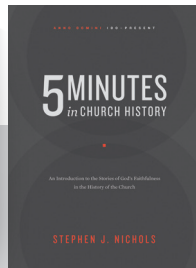
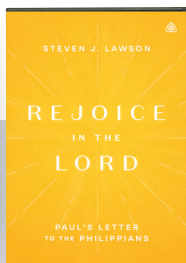
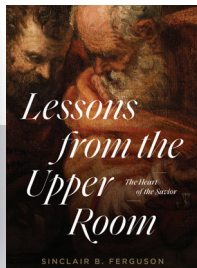
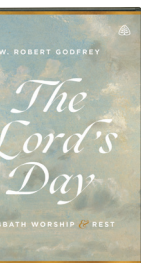
Looking to Genesis 1:26–28, we see that when God created males and females in His image, He also gave

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SO GOD  
CREATED MAN  
IN HIS OWN IMAGE,  
IN THE IMAGE  
OF GOD  
HE CREATED HIM;  
MALE AND FEMALE  
HE CREATED THEM.

GENESIS 1:27

We want to see men and women  
around the world connect the deep truths  
of the Christian faith to everyday life.



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