Selem of God





Genesis 1:26-27 (ESV)

26 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."

27 So God created man in his own image,

in the image of God he created him;

male and female he created them.

בלי selem of God

בליי selem of God

Image:

(Figuratively) illusion, resemblance; hence, a representative figure, especially an idol (statue).



Then all the people of the land went to the house of Baal and tore it down; his altars and his images (selem) they broke in pieces.

2 Kings 11:18a

You shall take up Sikkuth your king, and Kiyyun your stargod—your images (selem) that you made for yourselves.

Amos 5:26 (ESV)

בליב selem of God

"In the ancient world an image was believed to carry the essence of that which it represented."



Image of God Three views

Substantive View

Relational View

Functional View



Substantive View

Who we are

Literal reading of the word *Tselem*. "Focuses on the locus of the image."

Quality or capacity of the body (image) the natural makeup of man.

E.g. ability to reason, to innovate, having a spirit, conscience, emotions, will, social awareness etc.



Relational View How we relate

Image is reflective to the experience of relationship:

Horizontal: With other beings.

Vertical: With God (to 'know'

Him)



Functional View

What we do

Image is something man does.

To exercise dominion over creation like God.

To "subdue", "take dominion" Gen: 1:26-28





Relational

Functional





"Your words are got to be so adapted and lovingly crafted, to the circumstances the needs, the capacity of the person...

It is your responsibly as the communicator to do everything you possibly can to make sure what you say is hearable."

Rev. Timothy Keller