

# Likeness of God, Imagination and Graven Images

## Image:

Webster: a reproduction or **imitation of the form of a person or thing**; *especially* : an imitation in solid form : **STATUE** 2 a: the optical counterpart of an object produced by an optical device (as a lens or mirror) or an electronic device **b: a visual representation of something**: as (1): **a likeness of an object produced on a photographic material (2): a picture produced on an electronic display** (as a television or computer screen) 3 a: exact likeness : **SEMBLANCE** <God created man in his own *image* — Genesis 1:27(Revised Standard Version)> **b: a person strikingly like another person** <she is the *image* of her mother> 4 a: a tangible or visible representation : **INCARNATION** <the *image* of filial devotion> **barchaic** : an illusory form : **APPARITION** 5 a (1): **a mental picture or impression of something** <had a negative body *image* of herself> (2): **a mental conception held in common by members of a group** and symbolic of a basic attitude and orientation <a disorderly courtroom can seriously tarnish a community's *image* of justice — Herbert Brownell> **b: IDEA, CONCEPT** 6: a vivid or graphic representation or description

Of the items mentioned in the above definitions of the word image, I want to point out particularities of three.

1. Paintings/Portraits : Through the ages many famous artists have captured famous people, buildings and landscapes of different eras by either stroking on canvass the exact image they are viewing or an abstract interpretive view of the image.
2. Videos/Film for Shorts, Documentaries and Movies: With this method of image recordings for the most part we are given moving images to make the scenes more lifelike to help us with the story or subject matter of the video. However, we are also given a broad picture of the entire situation to draw a conclusion to the Video or Film presented to us.
3. Audible Story Telling and Narratives. Storytellers (verbal or through the written word) have to detail their phrases to include verbal pictures so the listener or reader is given enough data to imagine the scenes more palpable to the mind's eyes with detail that makes the story more real to the minds receiving the narrative. The Video and Film media verses that of the audible and print is why we have the phrase, "one picture is a worth a thousand words." Hence, the use of imagery, the tool of which the playwright or screenplay writer uses to narrow down many pages of description to one or more picture for scene settings.

All of the above affect one's imagination. What does that mean?

Webster **imag·i·na·tion**  Pronunciation: \i-,ma-jə-'nā-shən\ Function: *noun*

Etymology:

Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Latin *imagination-*, *imaginatio*, from *imaginari* Date: 14th century

1: the act or power of forming a mental **image** of something **not present to the senses** or never before wholly perceived in reality 2 a: **creative ability** **b: ability to confront and deal with a problem** : **RESOURCEFULNESS** <use your *imagination* and get us out of here> **c: the thinking or active mind** : **INTEREST** <stories that fired the *imagination*> 3 a: a creation of the mind; *especially* : **an idealized or poetic creation** **b: fanciful or empty assumption**

Whether we're creating pictures for our imagination or they are subjected to our minds by others, our intellect becomes the **panoramic screen** of the thought or story projected to us. Have you ever heard the similar saying, "Oh my, I'll never get that image out of my head"?

This becomes a problem with most who view pornography. There is something about these pictures which are seen in more private situations that stirs out senses and causes such things as lusts and desires which cause us to develop these pictures into actual actions which for the most part results in “sin.” Oh but wait, The Lord said, if one looks on a woman with lust then he (she) has committed the sin already (Matt 5:28). And yet in defense to the images being splashed onto our minds’ screen, it is this method that lectures professors, Rabbis and Ministers use to teach us.

**The Power of Suggestion.** This is the method use to suggest to a person or groups of people an agenda for forming a common thought for a common outcome. One of the most popular occurrences of this sort in the last 20 to 30 years is John Lennon’s famous song, “Imagine.” Here Lennon appeals to the listener the idea of bonding them all to a common thought that should bring about a “Brotherhood of Man” (without the “Fatherhood of God”). Although there are times where he states, “I wonder if you can,” already suggests a picture (seeds) of doubt as to the possibility of the main theme becoming a reality.

Although you and I may present ideas and associations to others where we say “suppose”, or “imagine this”; people like John Lennon had the tool of Mass Media. At times this can become abusive when artists, actors and musicians use their popularity and the spotlight of a function as a “bully pulpit” to project their agendas onto the minds of the viewers, who either weren’t watching the event for the same schema as the star’s or hadn’t previously become admirable to the star for the same cause.

Vain Imaginations: In 2 Cor 10:5, we’re warned by the apostle that we need to cast down any imagination that comes to our minds or is placed in it by someone else that may exalts itself to the knowledge of God.

Greek: 3053. logismos, log-is-mos'; from G3049; computation, i.e. (fig.) reasoning (conscience, conceit):--imagination, thought.

**Creation:** As already suggested above there is a force that comes from our imagination that causes us or helps us create things that have either never been created for or a duplication as something already created. Think of the things we have today? The wheel; the automobile; parchment and etching materials; typewriters; the computer and word processor this message was created on; Movies/Television; Telephones/Cell phones, and today the mixing of Cell phones and computers in one unit. All of these, from the primitive to modern technology, are results of someone’s or people’s imaginations.

**Man made in the Image of God?:** (Gen 1:26) “... *after our likeness...*” Too many times people only equate this passage in that God looks like in statue and body. Whereas many still consider the jury out on that idea, the definitions from the Strong’s Concordance, the Hebrew word certainly relates to that idea and more. Notice that the key words in the usage : model, fashion, manner and similitude.

**Likeness:** Hebrew 1823. demuwth, dem-ooth'; from H1819; resemblance; concr. model, shape; adv. like:-fashion, like (-ness, as), manner, similitude.

Certainly the definition would imply a power to create from our imagination as God created us and our natural surroundings and as God has done we have created our own tool for assisting our lives while here on Earth.

### **Graven Images:**

Today many people believe that the Genesis 1:26 passage idea crosses many boundaries wherein they don’t believe in keeping or displaying pictures of themselves or others. They don’t allow their children to play with toys that form the likeness of an individual or animal. Whereas anything not in moderation can be

made into an idol lets see what the English, Hebrew, and Greek definitions have to say about it. Firstly the passages use the word image in association with the word graven.

Webster:

**Grave (Graven)**

Main Entry: **grave**  Pronunciation: \ˈgrāv\ Function: *transitive verb* Inflected Form(s):

**graved; grav·en**  \ˈgrā-vən\ or **graved; grav·ing** Etymology: Middle English, from Old

English *grafan*; akin to Old High German *graban* to dig, Old Church Slavic *pogreti* to bury Date: before 12th century

*archaic* : **DIG, EXCAVATE**2 a: **to carve or shape with a chisel** ; **SCULPTURE** b: **to carve or cut** (as letters or figures) **into a hard surface** ; **ENGRAVE**3: **to impress or fix (as a thought) deeply**

Hebrew to English (taken from Exodus 20: 4 ) 6459. *pecel*, *peh'-sel*; from H6458; **an idol:--carved** (graven) image.

**Image** (Hebrew to English from the same Exodus 20:4) 6754. *tselem*, *tseh'-lem*; from an unused root mean. **to shade**; a phantom, i.e. (fig.) **illusion, resemblance**; hence a representative figure, espec. **an idol**:--image, **vain shew** (show).

Here The Lord was aware of how our minds work, after all he designed them and knows their limitations and unlimited capabilities, therefore he warns his people not to do as the heathen, pagan have done, by creating a god and carve a statue or plaque image of that one for worshipping; expecting an illusion of powers from that source to make our lives easier or make someone else's life more miserable (bless me and curse them). As for the image of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel) Yeshua is that image. Therefore, are the Catholic people guilty of Idol Worship by the statues of Christ and His earthly mother that are places in every Catholic Church or Cathedral? The only way to answer that is looking into its origin.

**Idol** (Isa 66:3)

Hebrew: 205. 'aven, aw'-ven; from an unused root perh. mean. prop. to pant (hence to exert oneself, usually in vain; to come to naught); strictly nothingness; also trouble, vanity, wickedness; spec. an idol:--affliction, evil, false, idol, iniquity, mischief, mourners (-ing), naught, sorrow, unjust, unrighteous, vain, vanity, wicked (-ness.) Comp. H369.

Greek (1 Cor 8:4) 1497. *eidolon*, i'-do-lon; from G1491; an image (i.e. for worship); by impl. **a heathen god**, or (plur.) the **worship of such**:--idol.

In the day of the Tanakh (the Old Testament) the Children of Israel were constantly steered by the Lord away from the pagan idea of gods, imaginary deities. The images of the perception of these gods were formed in lifeless statues called idols. However looking at the definitions above we see that the purpose was to worship a nothingness

object that had no life and could do nothing, exercising that power of belief and faith that steered the worshippers away from the Creator (whether they knew of Him or not).

What say ye? “I don’t worship my statues, images or foods offered to idols as sacrifices.” The Apostle Paul states attitudes of such in 1 Corinthians 8:4 the eating of food offered to idols for sacrifice.

Here he puts this and other ideas into perspective, where he states that although we know that the food was offered to nothing and God is not commended by meat offered to him, he cautions us not to be stumbling block, a bad witness to cause someone watching us (our brother) to fall.

Many of us symbolize witnessing and teaching to that of “sowing seed”, much like the parable (Matthew 13:31-33). Yeshua/Jesus makes reference again to the mustard seed as the smallest seed that the greatest of herbs and grows into a large tree. Therefore, whether we believe in the legalism of scripture, we must always keep in mind our witness and what kind of seed is it sowing good or bad seed. If we agree or disagree in our own hearts whether or not a picture is a graven image or a thing for Idol worship, or whether or not a certain food should be eaten, we must remember about the people looking at us and what they are expecting to see.

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