**Session 4**

***Scripture Memory Challenge***

**2-3 October 2023**

Jen Wilkin concluded the segment of her video we watched today by saying that God “formed us (in His own image) to reflect what He is like to the world around us.” As always, Satan tries to thwart God’s good purpose by enticing us to rival God instead. She expands on this thought in chapter one of her book *None Like Him: 10 Ways God Is Different From Us.* Following is a quote from pages 23-29 of that book:

**Reflect or Rival?**

…human beings created to *bear the image of God* instead aspire to *become like God.* Designed to reflect his glory, we choose instead to rival it. We do so by reaching for those attributes that are true only of God, those suited only to a limitless being. Rather than worship and trust in the omniscience of God, we desire to be all-knowing ourselves. Rather than celebrate and revere his omnipotence, we seek ultimate power in our own spheres of influence. Rather than rest in the immutability of God, we point to our own calcified sin patterns and declare ourselves unchanging and unchangeable. Like our father Adam and our mother Eve, we long for that which is intended only for God, rejecting our God-given limits and craving the limitlessness we foolishly believe we are capable of wielding and entitled to possess. Even as the redeemed, we crave the forbidden fruit of rivalry.

Theologians make two lists when they describe who God is. One list contains traits that are true only of God. The other contains traits that are true of God but that can also become true of us. Here is an example of such a list:

 **Only God Is God Is (and We Can Be)**

 Infinite Holy

 Incomprehensible Loving

 Self-Existent Just

 Self-Sufficient Good

 Eternal Merciful

 Immutable Gracious

 Omnipresent Longsuffering

 Omniscient Wise

 Omnipotent Jealous (for His glory)

 Sovereign Faithful

 Righteous

 Truthful

Every trait on both lists is limitlessly true of God. Once the Holy Spirit dwells in us, the list on the right can become true of us. It is a list we grow into as we walk in obedience to the commands of God. When we talk about being “conformed to the image of Christ”, this is the list we are describing. It shows us how to *reflect* who God is as Christ did.

The problem I want to examine…has to do with how we humans treat the list on the left. Though this list can be true only of God, we want it to be true of us. It reveals how we try to

*rival* God. We want this list to be true of us more than we want the list on the right to be. To see the truth of this, ask yourself two questions:

1. How many people spend their day plotting how to achieve limitless *love* for others?
2. How many people spend their day plotting how to achieve limitless *power* over others?

Though we know that the list on the right is for our good and for God’s glory, we gravitate toward the list on the left—a list that is not good for us, nor does pursuing it bring glory to God. It actually seeks to steal glory from him. It is a list that whispers, as the Serpent whispered to Eve, “You shall be like God.” It is the natural inclination of the sinful heart to crave this list, but…we must learn to crave the list on the right. The list on the right represents the abundant life Jesus came to give to us…

…We must recover the truth that was obscured by the Serpent: rather than being like God in his unlimited divinity, we are to be like God in our limited humanity. We are capable of bearing his image as we were intended only when we embrace our limits…**Our limits teach us the fear of the Lord**…When I reach the limit of my strength, I worship the One whose strength never flags. When I reach the limit of my reason, I worship the One whose reason is beyond searching out…

Our birth records announce that we are limited. Our limitations are by design. Whether we spend the remainder of our lives denying or embracing this basic truth makes all the difference in how we will love God and others.

* **Reviewing the 10 Commandments with Hand Motions**
* **Using Initials To Review a New Verse (Acts 3:19)**
* **Reciting Verses from Our Own List**