



[Genesis 1:26](#)

(26) Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

New King James Version

At the very beginning of the Book, [God](#) tells us what He is doing. His project, His work, began with the formation of man as a physical being in the bodily form of God, and it will not end until mankind is in the nature and character [image of God](#).

To accomplish this, God gave men free moral agency to enable us to choose to follow His way and assist in the development of His image in us, since we cannot be in His image unless we voluntarily choose to do so. Then the character is truly ours, as well as being truly His, because it is inscribed in us as a result of what we have believed and experienced.

God is not merely eternal. He is supreme in every quality of [goodness](#), and in Him absolutely no evil dwells. In the Bible, this goodness is called *holiness*, which is transcendent purity. It permeates every aspect, every attribute, of God-life. God's character is holy, and it flows out from Him in acts of [love](#), making it impossible for Him to do anything evil. This is the state towards which He is drawing us.

Law must be seen in this context. If we tear law from the context of God's purpose, then we can come up with anything we want to say about law. We can say, "Oh, it is all done away," or "We do not need to do this." However, we cannot tear it away from the purpose of God, and there is a reason for this.

Does God abide by law? The creation screams at us that He does! Everything He creates operates by law, and it does so because it came from His wonderfully orderly and organized mind. It is a reflection of what His mind is like because this is the way He is. He is a law-abiding God.

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However, we cannot see Him - not literally, with our eyes. It is here that [faith](#) enters the picture: We can see evidence of Him, and we can believe what He says. His law outlines the way that He lives. It is **the way** of this holy, law-abiding God.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Covenants, Grace and Law \(Part 20\)](#)



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