**Theological Reflection on Theme: We are all created in God’s image.**

Anyone know the source of this observation?

* Gen 1:27 – God created humanity in God’s own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them.
* So we’re beginning this reflection from the perspective of Judeo-Christian tradition

What does it mean to us that we are created in the divine image? What about this speaks to wholeness?

Do we as a people see each other as beloved children of God? What about the way we/society tend(s) to treat “others” speaks to brokenness?

What calls us up short about this situation? Where do we have an “aha” moment?

* In this regard, what do we think of Leonard Pitts’ thesis that Black History is Everyone’s History?
* What is the role of deeply listening to the stories of others in this regard?

Where is there space for restoring wholeness in this picture? What will it take?

* What do you think of Brenda McNeil’s view that “Reconciliation is an ongoing spiritual process involving forgiveness, repentance, and justice that restores broken relationships and systems to reflect God’s original intention for all creation to flourish”?
* In this regard, reflect on Dr Parker’s metaphor of the conversion from being a citizen not of somewhere else, but of here.

What would restored wholeness with regard to recognizing others as created in God’s image look like in our society?

* How do you react to Leonard Pitts’ conclusion that “If we ever learn to tread this ground together, there’s no place we can’t go”?

Let’s connect these thoughts arising from our religious tradition to how our **culture** addresses this theme of all being created equally in God’s image.

* Our foundational documents as a nation vs our history of practices as colonizers and enslavers
* Other aspects of our common history?
* How is this depicted in our cultural heritage: movies, songs, books, television programs?
* Can we all live life abundantly, or do some of us face more obstacles because of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or other context?

How do these messages we receive from culture match with those from our stated Christian beliefs?

What about your own **personal experiences**. Do you recall when you first became aware that in society’s eyes not all people are created equal? Think about your own personal development with regard to that question.

What **beliefs** do you currently hold regarding the statement that we are all created in God’s image? What does that compel you to do, or not to do?

Having reflected on this, what will you take away from this discussion? How will you **apply** this in your life?

What would you offer to God in prayer concerning this reflection?