

A Gospel Understanding

ODR

You were **created** in the Image of God. He began His story with creation and He called what He created **good**. There are echoes of that **original design** in you.

But. That good, original design has been tainted by **the fall**. You entered a fallen world when you were born. Creation has been altered...**broken**. You entered a broken world. You yourself have been broken by **sin done to you** and **sin you've done** yourself, your very sin separating you from God.

Then. Jesus entered the story. His **death and resurrection** brought about **redemption**. Now you can be brought **from darkness and death to light and life**. When we follow Jesus with our lives, we are **redeemed**.

The story doesn't end there. As long as we are alive on this earth, we have the opportunity to join with Jesus' **restorative work** by engaging in His transformation of our very selves. We have the opportunity to enter into His **healing** of the wrongs that have been done to us. We also have the opportunity to engage His **transformation** of ourselves through **confession and repentance** of our own sin, ultimately believing Him to **make us new**, as we live connected to the Holy Spirit. He reconnects the echoes of our original design to our current reality. And as we experience His restoration of ourselves, we have the opportunity to **bring restoration** to all the people and places our lives touch.

This is a **Gospel understanding** of ourselves. This is the **story** we find ourselves in today. This is the **lens** through which we are being invited to view God, ourselves, and all of life.

Katie Tramonte