

ENDORSEMENTS



Becoming God's Family *Why the Church Still Matters*

October 28, 2025 | \$22.99, 240 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1032-7

Praise for *Being God's Image* and *Bearing God's Name*

"Because of Carmen Imes's warm and inviting prose, readers might not initially realize what a biblical narrative tour de force they receive in this book. From Genesis to Revelation, creation to new creation, Imes leaves no major challenging question unaddressed as she explores the central assertion that all humans are made in God's image. A wise and able guide, Imes brings clarity, encouragement, and challenge herself as well as introducing numerous other guides so readers can press deeper. Along with *Bearing God's Name*, *Being God's Image* will stand as an influential Christian theology of creational flourishing."

—**Amy Peeler**, associate professor of New Testament at Wheaton College and Graduate School

"To really know who you are, you need to know where you came from. Carmen Imes takes this idea seriously and walks through Genesis and other parts of Scripture to capture God's plan for creation, especially human image bearers. If you are looking for wisdom on personal identity and calling—and how to love, respect, and partner with fellow humans—this is a steady guide."

—**Nijay K. Gupta**, professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary

"In this companion to *Bearing God's Name*, Carmen Imes offers a brilliant and compelling study of the *imago Dei*. While *Bearing God's Name* accents the unique vocation of God's people, *Being God's Image* foregrounds the remarkable status, dignity, and value that all humanity shares. Being is not divorced from bearing, but the distinction matters—in particular when thinking about gender, disability, race, suffering, and community. As readers sit at the table enjoying a rich biblical-theological feast, they're treated to the stories and people from Imes's journey who reflect the variegated light and life of the One in whose image we all are made."

—**Matthew Lynch**, associate professor of Old Testament at Regent College and author of *Flood and Fury: Old Testament Violence and the Shalom of God*

"*Being God's Image* is a useful guide for Christians to see how the Bible explains what it means to be human. By engaging with a range of scholarship and writing with straightforward prose, Carmen Imes paints a hopeful picture in which we may recognize our true selves and be encouraged to live in harmony with our Creator and with others."

—**Dennis R. Edwards**, dean of North Park Theological Seminary

"Beautifully written and clearly presented, *Being God's Image* takes the reader on a wonderful journey through Scripture. Carmen Imes clearly displays the wonder of being the creatures called to be God's image and bear his name, reminding us throughout what an amazing thing it is to be made in the image of God."

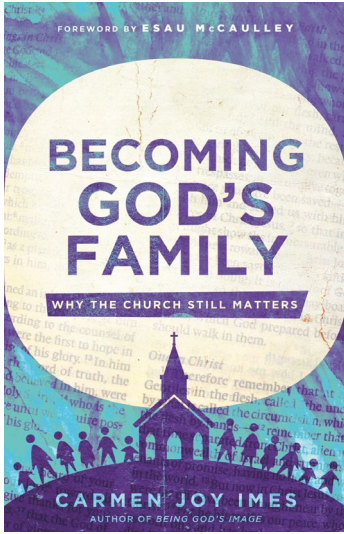
—**Marc Cortez**, professor of theology at Wheaton College and Graduate School



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"The image of God is one of the most foundational ideas in the biblical story and in Christian faith. But it's a dense, multilayered concept with huge implications for how we understand humanity's role in the world and in relationship to God. Carmen Imes has given us an accessible and profound exploration of this most important biblical theme. She not only shows what this idea meant in its ancient biblical context but also how it leads into the story of Jesus and the mission of his followers still today."

—**Tim Mackie**, cofounder of the BibleProject

"Carmen Imes, once again, takes a stock Christian concept—the image of God—and reveals how it is woven into the fabric of the biblical authors' imaginations. Imes has a rare gift for helping the church to see the beauty and sophistication of the intellectual world of the Bible in plain language. Far from abstract speculation, she grounds us in the nitty-gritty mission of God to the world and how being God's image directly affects communities and daily lives. The deep structures of Scripture come alive in her capable hands. This is the content I'm here for!"

—**Dru Johnson**, associate professor of biblical and theological studies at The King's College and author of *Biblical Philosophy: A Hebraic Approach to the Old and New Testaments*

"You could think of *Being God's Image* as a primer in biblical theology, but one directed especially to lay Christians. You don't need to be a theologian or a pastor to understand Carmen's lucid writing. Yet Carmen has sneakily woven serious biblical scholarship into what seems to be a breezy, conversational book addressed to ordinary readers."

—**J. Richard Middleton**, professor of biblical worldview and exegesis at Northeastern Seminary, from the foreword

"Warm, witty, wise, and winsome; theologically rigorous, rhetorically convincing, and pastorally helpful, this book is not to be missed. Taking the reader through the narrative of the exodus, Carmen Joy Imes shows us that it is our story, not an arcane, ancient document as dry as last year's bird nest. The genre of Law speaks today. You will see the name Carmen Joy Imes regularly in the future as she continues to bless the church with accessible and edifying scholarship."

—**Jeffrey D. Arthurs**, Haddon Robinson Professor of Preaching and Communication, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

"Rarely do we encounter scholars who are able to distill the essence of complex notions and recast them in forms that are both accessible and compelling for lay readers. Carmen Imes's skills in this regard are extraordinary. In the academy, people who have read her published technical monograph on bearing God's name have been quick to celebrate the stellar quality of her work. In this volume Carmen introduces lay readers and serious students of Scripture to her major findings through writing in engaging and persuasive prose—with plenty of ideas for application. For readers who long to recover the life-giving message of grace in the Torah, this book will be a great place to start."

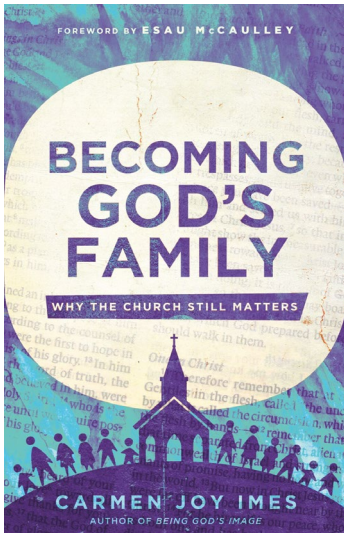
—**Daniel I. Block**, Gunther H. Knoedler Professor Emeritus of Old Testament, Wheaton College



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"If you are ready to be transformed by a book, read this one! Like Lucy and Edmund in C. S. Lewis's *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, Carmen Imes plunges her reader deep into the world of the Old Testament (and the New). The journey will reshape what you know about God's name, Israel's law, and our identity as Christians who bear God's name."

—**Beth Stovell**, associate professor of Old Testament at Ambrose University and national catalyst for theological and spiritual formation, Vineyard Canada

"Carmen Joy Imes is helping us to relish once again the wondrous depths of truth and challenge that are there *for us Christians* in that great epic narrative of Old Testament Israel—whether those stories are familiar to us already or not. . . . I trust that reading this book will give you a deeper and more biblical understanding of what it ought to mean to bear God's name, and not to bear it in vain."

—From the foreword by **Christopher J. H. Wright**, author of *The Mission of God*

"Did Old Testament law apply to Christians in the New Testament? Are they still relevant today? With a writing style that is straightforward and recurrently witty, Imes answers those questions and more. Not only does the author demonstrate a solid understanding of biblical history, but she also introduces and explains concepts that the nonexpert can appreciate. . . . Highly recommended for all students of biblical history, and especially for Christians who want to understand the connection between the Old and New Testaments."

—Chad Clark, *Library Journal*, November 2019



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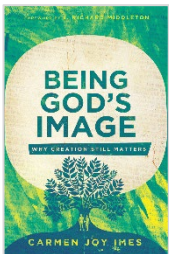
October 28, 2025 | \$22.99, 240 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1032-7

After waves of disillusionment, #churchtoo movements, and political divides, it's easy to question the value of investing in the church. Yet Carmen Joy Imes offers a profound answer that resonates through the pages of *Becoming God's Family*. Exploring the familial and communal identity of the church, Imes traces the thread of God's presence in the gathered community of faith across the entire Bible. She invites readers into a vision of the church that is rooted deeply in Scripture and speaks directly to the challenges we face today.

New from the Author of *Bearing God's Name*

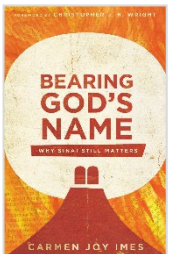
Carmen Joy Imes (PhD, Wheaton) is associate professor of Old Testament at Biola University. She is the author of *Bearing God's Name: Why Sinai Still Matters*, *Being God's Image: Why Creation Still Matters*, and the editor of *Praying the Psalms with Augustine and Friends*.

Also by Carmen Joy Imes:



Being God's Image: Why Creation Still Matters
June 6, 2023 | \$23.99, 248 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0020-5

What does it mean to be human? For this timeless question, the Bible offers truths for the flourishing of all creation. Carmen Imes recovers the theologically rich creation narratives and explores the implication of our kinship relationship with God, considering what it means for our work, gender relations, creation care, and eternal destiny.



Bearing God's Name: Why Sinai Still Matters
December 10, 2019 | \$23.99, 240 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-5269-7

What does the Old Testament—especially the law—have to do with your Christian life? In this warm, accessible volume, Carmen Joy Imes takes readers back to Sinai, arguing that we've misunderstood the command about "taking the Lord's name in vain." Instead, Imes says that this command is really about "bearing God's name," a theme that continues throughout the rest of Scripture.



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