Creativity attempted to change the body image of four individuals. Using the powerful graphics editing tool Photoshop, Shelby White swapped United States President Barak Obama’s hairstyle with that of his opponent, Mitt Romney’s style. Following the first presidential debate, White, a visual designer and founder of Designspiration in Portland, Oregon, sent his creative masterpiece to Huffington Post who placed the altered pictures in its October 14 Comedy section.

After the Vice Presidential debate Mr. White did it again. Vice President Biden’s hairstyle was Photoshopped onto the head of his running mate, Paul Ryan.

We laugh because just swapping hairstyles creates a look we sense is abnormal. Yet when we look at pictures of ourselves with a friend we might wish out loud for some magical swapping too. “I wish I had your ears. I hate how mine stick out.” Or “I wish I had your naturally curly (or straight) hair”?

The Bible is clear. In Genesis 1:27 (NIV) we read “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” So what do you see when you look in a mirror? Does someone created in the image of God look back?

Americans spend billions of dollars each year attempting to measure up to a certain social and cultural ideal of the perfect image. Botox injections are not gender specific and have become more popular as the baby boomers wrinkle with age.
Consider the expense of these injections, facial peels, face lifts, liposuction, body-building nutritional supplements, hair bleach or dyes. Most women have drawers of make-up while both genders are helping the anti-aging market by purchasing the latest creams and lotions advertised to delay the inevitable.

We all want to look our best but our image is not to be linked just to appearance. Our lesson points out that in practical terms we bear God’s image in our love, commitment, and loyalty to Him as well as in our actions and the way we treat others. We are reminded that “the image of God” points to physical, intellectual, social and spiritual endowments needed to fulfill God’s purpose.

It didn’t take long for God’s perfect image of humans to be marred. By Genesis 3 the sin of disobedience jettisoned God’s perfect plan.

We can control healthy eating that promotes healthy skin, hair and bones. We can engage in regular exercise shown to boost energy levels and self-image. We can get plenty of rest. But because of sin we are now subject to sickness, death and decay.

A day is coming when those who have chosen to reflect God’s image here on earth will be restored into God's perfect image in Heaven. Think about what you will see in a mirror then. No Photoshop swapping required.

-ck

1. Huffington Post

2. Buzz Feed

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