

The Baptist Faith & Message, 2000

II. Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

Key Text: (all texts are NKJV)

Genesis 1:26-27: "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." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Genesis 2:18: "And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Genesis 3:15-16: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

Genesis 9:6: "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man."

Psalms 8:4-6: "What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angel, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet."

Psalms 51:5: "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me."

Acts 17:26-29: "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, „For we are also His offspring." Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising."

Romans 1:19-32, Romans 3:10-18, 23 Romans 5:12-21

Romans 3:11-12: “There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one.”

Romans 5:6: “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”

Romans 5:12: “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

Romans 5:19: “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”

Ephesians 2:1-10

Ephesians 2:1-3: “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

The BF&M statement on man highlights two aspects of the human condition that sets man apart from all other creation:

1. Man’s NOBLE STATUS (Gen. 2)

a. Man is God’s representative to God’s good creation.

b. Man is God’s vice-regent over God’s good creation.

What separates man from other creatures is his status as the image of God. Man has a worth and dignity not ascribed to the animals. There is a qualitative distinction between the value of animals and the value of human persons.

- A. All humankind originates in a single pair of parents, all human beings inherit equal value and nobility in the sight of God. Therefore, any view of humanity that diminishes the dignity of any member on any grounds (gender, race, intelligence, physical form, circumstances of conception) is to be repudiated.
- B. Man-kind as a race was created male and female, any view of the human species that blurs the fundamental distinction between male and female is to be repudiated. God made men to be men. He created women to be women.
- C. Each person is in the image of God, parenthood is elevated from a merely procreative act to a co-creative act – God involving a man and a woman in the creation of new images of Himself. This is an amazing honor and privilege.
- D. All human beings serve as representatives of God, any act directed at another person, whether for good or evil, is an act ultimately directed at God (Prov 14:31; 17:5; Matt 25:31-46; James 3:8-10). Our disposition toward God is most graphically expressed in our treatment of fellow human beings, especially those deemed socially inferior.

2. Man’s IGNOBLE STATE (Gen. 3)

The Bible is clear in portraying humankind as uniquely endowed with special dignity and equally clear in emphasizing humankind’s unique and utter sinfulness and depravity. Because of sin, (idolatry and rebellion against God), we all come under the curse of God.

- A. The entire human race is united in descent from Adam, the guilt of Adam’s sin falls on us all, and separation and estrangement from God in whose image we are made extends to all.
- B. Thanks be to God, the biblical story does not end here. Through God’s Son, Jesus Christ, the perfect image of God (Col 1:15), the redeemed enjoy the removal of that guilt and are restored to fellowship and communion with their Maker (Adapted from an article by Dan Block).

We may diagram man’s threefold state with respect to the problem of sin and the will as follows:

Original State	Fallen State	Redeemed State	
		Present Aspect	Future Aspect
Power not to sin, but able to sin	Power only to sin	Power not to sin, but able to sin	Not able to sin
Freedom of the will	Bondage of the will (morally not naturally)	Freedom of the will	Freedom to the will
ADAM and EVE	Those in the first Adam	Those in the last Adam	Those in the last Adam

Adamic Sin (Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49)

“You are Somebody” (Made in the Image of God)¹

Genesis 1:26-31; 3:14-19; Ecclesiastes 3:11; Romans 5-6

I. The Creation of Man In God’s Image: Humans are special 1:26-27

1. Man was created in sacred deliberation 1:26
2. Man was created by special design 1:26-27
3. Man was created with significant dominion 1:26 (cf Psalm 8:4-9)
4. Man was created for a satisfying destiny (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

II. The Character of Man With God’s Image: Humans have (had) sovereignty 1:26-31; 2:18-25

1. Man was created for reproduction 1:28
2. Man was created for rulership 1:28-30
3. Man was created for relationship 1:27; 2:18-25
4. Man was created with resemblance 1:26-27, 31
 - a. Intellectual
 - b. Moral
 - c. Filial
 - d. Spiritual

III. The Corruption of Man and God’s Image: Humans are sinful 3:14-19 (cf Romans 3:9-20)

1. Personally there are consequences 3:14-19
 - a. Man’s will is damaged (Romans 3:11-12)
 - b. Man’s mind is deceived (Romans 3:11)
 - c. Man’s emotions are distorted (Romans 3:13-18)
2. Relationally there are consequences
 - a. With God there is separation (Romans 3:9, 19-20)
 - b. With others there is strife (3:16)

IV. The Correction of Man Back to God’s Image: Humans are savable (Romans 5-6)

1. We are redeemed in Christ (Regeneration restores the content of the image) Romans 5
2. We are restored in Christ (Sanctification reverses the corruption of the image) Romans 6

¹ Adapted from <https://www.danielakin.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/06-man-manuscript-kh.pdf>

The Bible is ONE book - with 1 divine author (God the Holy Spirit), with 1 hero (God the Son, Jesus), and glorifies 1 person (God the Father). As we read and study together, we read with this understanding - the Bible is about **God redeeming man**.

In a phrase:

- **The overall theme of the Bible is God redeeming man.**
- God created the world (**Creation**)
- The pinnacle of creation, man, sinned and negatively impacted all of creation (**The Fall**)
- God sent a way of rescue for man in Jesus (**Redemption** or Rescue)
- God will one day make all things new (**Restoration**)

This theme of God redeeming man (**Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration**) is the hermeneutic that we read the Bible with.

- I. **Creation:** The Who, How, Why, and What of Creation (Genesis 1:26–28)
 - A. **Who?** God created & sustains the world. God created & sustains me.
 - B. **How?** We are made in the image of God. I live among others who bear the image of God.
 - C. **Why?** Our purpose is to be culture-makers together with God for HIS glory. God gave us a cultural mandate (Genesis 2:15–25).
 1. There are only 4 things we can do at any given time.
 - a) Create
 - b) Cultivate
 - c) Consume
 - d) Critique
 - D. **What?** Genesis 1:28 God blessed us (in order) to:
 1. Give and Receive love
 2. Be conformed to the image of God's Son (Col. 3:10, Rom. 8:28-29)
 3. Make disciples

Being Made in the image of God implies 4 loving relationships:

- A love for God and what God loves us
- A love for one another (Matt. 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27)
- A love for self (Matt. 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27)
- A love for God's Creation

- II. **Fall:** Sin brought brokenness in relationships and all of creation (Genesis 3:1–7)
- A. Sin brought a broken relationship with God, others, self, and the created order.
 - B. The negative impact of the fall is to take the GOOD things that God has given us and to make them ultimate things. The great temptation is to take any of God’s good gifts (the gift of parents, spouse, children, work, play) and to make them ultimate.

GRACE - God’s Common Grace - Because of Sin, the world is in a bad way. But it is not as bad as it could be. God, in his common grace toward man, has restrained the world from being in utter and complete horror. It is SO good - that unbelievers often don’t believe they need the Savior, clinging instead to the created things that God has made and things they fashion with their own hands.

- III. **Redemption:** God does not leave his loved ones in their sin: God comes down to them and deals with their sin and shame.

The Five Disciplines & Curses of the Fall & how they impact marriage (Genesis 3:8–19)

- A. Satan the Enemy (3:14) - He will deceive and he will be crushed.
 - B. God the Savior (3:15) - He gives constant mercy and grace.
 - C. Woman (3:16) - She has reminders of God’s mercies and must beware of disordered desires.
 - D. The Ground (3:17-18) - Sin impacts more than just the sinner.
 - E. Man (3:19) - He has reminders of God’s mercies and must beware of apathy.
- IV. **Restoration:** God makes a better covering and begins the work of restoration from the first man and woman and continues through today. (Gen. 3:20-24)
- Through God’s Word, God redeems and restores. Men and women can worship and serve as they were intended to do.