

Creation and the Fall of Man

Lesson #3

Memory Verse: Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

God created mankind in His image, and man had a perfect relationship with Him. However, shortly after their creation, the first man and woman sinned by disobeying God. Through this act, known as “the Fall of Man”, Adam and Eve’s nature, which was originally created in the image and likeness of God, had become seriously corrupted and marred. Since them, everyone who has lived or will ever live inherits this depraved sin nature and likewise sin against God.

I. The Creation of Man

A. The first man and woman were created by the direct and personal act of God, apart from any evolutionary process. God created them in His own image.

1. Describe how God created the first man and woman (Genesis 2:7, 21-22) _____

2. According to Genesis 1:26-27, how did God originally make man? _____

3. What was man’s character like immediately after creation (Ecclesiastes 7:29)? _____

The fact that man is in the image of God means that man is like God and represents God.¹

Wayne Grudem

¹ Grudem, Wayne: *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI. Zondervan Publishing House, 2000.

B. Humans exist as male and female. God created man and woman, with their peculiar distinctions and drives, in order that they might complete one another and together fulfill His purpose for their existence in this world.

1. What four of God's acts are described in Genesis 5:1-2? _____

2. According to Genesis 2:18, what aspect of Adam's existence did God declare "not good" and what did He do as a result? _____

3. How was the relationship between Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:23-25)? _____

C. Creation was designed to bring glory to God.

1. Why were all things created and how are they sustained (Isaiah 43:7; Colossians 1:16-17)? _____

2. What is the proper response of God's creation to Him for creating them (Psalm 148:5; Revelation 4:11)? _____

Q1: What is the chief end of man?

A: Man's chief end of man is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.²

Westminster Shorter Catechism

II. The Fall of Man

A. Man was *not* created a sinner, but sin entered into the world through man by his conscious and voluntary choice. It was the event of Eve and Adam being wholly corrupted by their disobedience that sin entered into the world.

1. What was God's command to Adam and Eve in Genesis 2:16-17? What was the consequence for breaking God's command? _____

² *Westminster Confession of Faith*. Glasgow. Free Presbyterian Publications, 2001.

2. Did Adam and Eve keep God's command (Genesis 3:6)? _____

B. Sin entered the world through Adam. Death entered the world through sin. Death spread to all men, because "all sinned" in Adam.

1. Since we are born "in Adam," we are born into sin and the guilt of that sin, even before we think a coherent thought or speak a word. How is this truth conveyed in Psalms 51:5 and 58:3-5? _____

2. Not only are we born guilty before God in a legal sense but we are also born corrupted, with an innate tendency to sin. Read Romans 5:12 and answer the following questions.

a. How did sin enter the world? _____

b. How did death enter the world? _____

c. How many people have sinned since Adam (c.f. 3:23)? _____

d. How many people have been condemned since Adam (c.f. 5:18)? _____

The simple narrative of the opening seven verses of Genesis chapter 3 describes for us the first act of human disobedience which brought about the curse on all mankind, the Fall, the impact of that Fall has touched every part of the universe. It is accurate to say that absolutely everything wrong in our world is because of sin. If there were no sin there would be nothing wrong. If there were no sin, everything would be very good. Everything created in the heavens, everything created on the earth would be very good as it was on day six.³

John MacArthur

C. Due to our sinfulness, our relationship with God has been broken.

1. How did Isaiah and Paul describe the impact our sin on our relationship with God (Isaiah 59:2; Colossians 1:21)? _____

2. How do John 3:36 and Galatians 3:10 describe the effects of sin? _____

³ MacArthur, John: Sermon on Genesis 3:1-7. <http://www.biblebb.com>.

3. Why is it impossible for God to overlook sin (Habakkuk 1:13; Psalm 5:4)? _____

D. Sin is significant in the eyes of God, and it carries an infinitely high price.

1. What is the requirement for entering heaven (Matthew 5:48; Revelation 21:27)? _____

2. According to James 2:10, how many sins is enough to merit a person eternity in hell?

3. What is God's righteous punishment for sin (Matthew 25:46; Romans 5:18, 6:23)?

4. Could anyone possibly make adequate payment for his own sins or those of another (Psalm 49:7-9)? _____

III. The Total Depravity of Fallen Man

Every part of fallen man has been and is rendered corrupt. Total depravity is the extensive ruin of man's nature. Human beings are born sinners with a sinful nature inherited from Adam. We are born condemned, and our personal actions and choices only worsen our condemnation. We are dead in our sins and trespasses against God and His law. We are slaves to sin. On our own, we can do nothing that pleases God or has any real spiritual value.

A. Fallen man cannot comprehend or apprehend good.

1. How is the condition of man's mind described in Genesis 6:5? _____

2. According to Ephesians 4:17-18, how enlightened is the understanding of a depraved man? What is the condition of his heart? _____

3. Is it possible for an unsaved, "natural" man to receive the things of God (1 Corinthians 2:14)? How do they view the things of the Spirit of God? _____

4. Who has control over the fallen world (1 John 5:19)? _____

5. According to 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, what has Satan done to the minds of unbelievers?

B. Fallen man cannot have any desire toward good.

1. According to Psalm 10:4, how often does fallen man think about God? _____
2. Proverbs 17:11 and 21:10 says that fallen man only craves and seeks _____
3. Read John 3:19-20 and answer the following questions.
 - a. What do fallen men love (v.19)? _____
 - b. Why do they love it (v.19)? _____
 - c. What do fallen men hate (v.20; see also John 15:18)? _____
 - d. Will fallen men ever come to the light (v.20)? _____
 - e. Who is the light (compare v.17 with v.19)? _____
4. How did Jesus say that a man is limited by his nature (Luke 6:43-45)? _____

5. Without being born again (i.e. regenerated), is it possible to understand and enter the kingdom of heaven (John 3:3, 6:44, 65)? _____
6. Jesus taught that our wills are enslaved by sin. One who is in the chains of slavery is not free. What does John 8:34, 43-44 and Romans 6:16, 20 teach regarding the fallen man's slavery to sin? _____

7. According to Romans 3:10-12, what are six things of which every man is guilty before God? _____

C. Fallen man cannot fundamentally do anything to please God.

1. Is it possible for the fallen man to repent and change his own ways (Jeremiah 13:23)? _____

2. Is it possible for fallen man to confess Christ as Lord by his own initiative (1 Corinthians 12:3)? _____
3. How does Isaiah 64:6 describe man's best attempts to please God in the flesh? _____

4. According to Mark 10:26-27 and John 15:4-5, how much is man able to please God on the basis of his own will power? _____
5. Our first birth is only physical. Spiritually, we are stillborn. According to Ephesians 2:1-3, fallen man is spiritually _____ in trespasses and sins (v.1).

6. How is the heart of man described in Ecclesiastes 8:11, 9:3 and Jeremiah 17:9? _____

7. Read Romans 8:7-8 and answer the following questions.
- a. What kind of attitude does the fallen mind have toward God (v.7)? _____
 - b. How much ability does the fallen mind have to obey God (v.7)? _____
 - c. Is it possible for fallen man to please God (v.8)? _____

IV. Personal Application

- A. How can you grow in your appreciation for God's creative work? In what ways are you thankful to God for creating you? _____

- B. How does the knowledge of righteousness of God and the weightiness of sin impact the way you will think, speak, and act? How does the understanding of your sinful nature and choices affect you? _____

- C. How has your understanding of fallen man's depravity increased your compassion for the lost and your dependence on God and His sovereignty? _____

