



Creation & Fall of Man

Note: The Scripture references in this hand-out are taken from the New King James Version.

What does Genesis 1:26-27 teach us about the creation of mankind?

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.

We are created in the image of God and given authority over all of God's creation.

When we talk about God creating us what does this mean?

God brought us into being from nothing and breathed life into us...

Genesis 2:7 - And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

OK, so it says God created us from the dust of the ground but He also created the dust of the ground. I am reminded of a comic where some evolutionists were challenging God to say that they could also create life and to prove it they were going to do it just like the Bible says that God did, by starting with dirt. God, being the good natured deity that He is accepted the challenge so the evolutionist reached down to grab a handful of dirt and God said, "Hey, get your own dirt."

What does it mean to be in the image of God?

We have an **intellect**, a reasoning capacity which is like God but only a dim reflection of His ability.

We were given the ability to **speak**, to express what our mind conceived of as God does.

We were given the ability to **create** things, to bring order to God's creation.

We are moved by **emotions** which also affect God's actions.

We are **volitional** beings – we have a will or in other words, a capacity to make choices as God does.

We have a **moral capacity** – As God discerns good from evil, so do we.

We have an **eternal nature** – As God will exist into future eternity, we will as well (however, unlike God, we had a beginning).

We have a **triune nature** – As God is Father, Son & Holy Spirit, we have a soul, a body, and a human spirit.

What does 1 Thessalonians 5:23 tell us about the human nature?

1 Thessalonians 5:23 - Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People have a triune nature... the body is that physical part of us that interacts with the rest of God's creation; our soul is our inner self, our personality, the seat of our emotions and thoughts; our spirits is that part of us which has a capacity to know God, it is what sets us apart from animals.

What does Hebrews 4:12 have to say about how we may distinguish what is of our soul and what is of our spirit?

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Bible helps us see what thoughts we have are communicated by God through our spirit and which thoughts are our own soul which is influenced by our old sin nature. If we are a child of God, our spirits have been made alive to things of God; our dead spirits have been resurrected. However, we must wait for the resurrection of our souls and bodies. Please note that our souls have an old sin nature:

Romans 7:22-23 - For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

How do we know that our souls will be resurrected with our bodies?

Scripture tells us that once we are resurrected, we will no longer have a propensity to sin...

Revelation 22:3 - And there shall be no more curse. Mankind got an old sin nature as part of the consequence for disobeying God and eating from "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil..."

Genesis 2:16-17 - And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Scripture also tells us that the sanctification of our minds is an on-going process in our mortal bodies but this process will be completed when the Lord returns for us:

Philippians 1:6 - being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

This is reinforced in other places in Scripture such as this passage which indicates that we will no longer be subject to the consequences of sin which implies that we will no longer have the capacity to sin...

1 Corinthians 15:52 - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Even the Old Testament reveals God's plan to transform our soul (our heart) and our spirit:

Ezekiel 36:26-27 - "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."

What does Genesis 2:21-23 tell us about how God created the first woman?

Genesis 2:21-23 - And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

God created Eve from one of Adam's ribs. I understand that this is why women are more refined than men... Adam was only a prototype for Eve.

Someone told me that he thought Adam negotiated with God over the creation of Eve... God told Adam He was going to give him a help mate that would cater to his every need and live only to make sure he was comfortable and well fed. Adam asked God what that was going to cost him and God replied that it would cost him an arm and a leg. So Adam asked God, "What can I get for a rib?"

What does Genesis 1:28 tell us about the responsibilities God gave mankind?

Genesis 1:28 - Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

People were given the responsibility of reproduction. We were also given the responsibility of ruling over God's creation, to maintain it as stewards. This was reinforced by the work God gave mankind to do:

Genesis 2:15 - Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

What does Genesis 1:29 have to say about what God gave mankind to eat?

Genesis 1:29 - And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.

Originally God gave mankind only vegetables to eat, people living before the flood were vegetarians. It wasn't until after the flood that God ordained that people may eat animals for food:

Genesis 9:3 - Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs.

Why was it acceptable to eat meat after the flood but not before?

I believe that this was one of the consequences of the fall that did not become an issue until the conditions on earth changed after the flood. The conditions after the flood did not produce food with sufficient nutrition so meat had to be consumed to supplement the diet.

What was the one law God gave Adam and Eve?

God told Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (please note that this wasn't an apple tree)...

Genesis 2:17 - "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Why did God give Adam and Eve one restriction?

This was a test of their obedience. God knew that they would fail this test but He had a plan to redeem them and this was His plan all along.

Read the account of the fall of mankind: Genesis 3:1-24.

Why would God allow Adam and Eve to be tempted by Satan to disobey Him?

God desired a close relationship with us the depth of which would only be possible if we had a free will to freely choose a relationship with Him. Life is a test to see which of us will respond to God and enter into an eternal relationship with Him.

What did Satan do to tempt Eve in Genesis 3:1-5?

Satan cast doubt on God's Word...

Genesis 3:1 - Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.

And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

Satan gave Eve a half-truth that was phrased in a way to make it look like there was a contradiction in God's command not to eat of a certain designated tree. Then Satan lied to her...

Genesis 3:4 - Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

Next Satan appealed to Eve's pride...

Genesis 3:5 - "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

How was Adam tempted to eat the forbidden fruit?

Eve tried it and gave some of it to Adam to eat and he followed her lead without question...

Genesis 3:6 - So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

What were the results of Adam and Eve disobeying God in Genesis 7-8?

Genesis 3:7-8 - Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

The consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience were immediate. They became ashamed of the fact that they were naked and sought to cover themselves up. This was more than physical nakedness, this was nakedness of their disobedience to God before Him.

How did the knowledge of good and evil manifest itself in Adam's & Eve's response to their disobedience?

They knew good without the power to do it and knew evil without the power to avoid it or its consequences.

What excuses did Adam and Eve give God for why they disobeyed Him?

Genesis 3:12-13 - Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Eve blamed the serpent who deceived her and Adam blamed God for giving him a woman that tempted him to disobey.

What other consequences of the Fall were did God tell Eve about in Genesis 3:16?

Genesis 3:16 - 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."

Child birth would become painful and He would give her a desire to rule over her husband which would conflict with

His command that the husband should be the head of the family.

What other consequences of the Fall did God tell Adam about in Genesis 3:17-19?

Genesis 3:17-19 - Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': 'Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.'"

The Second Law of Thermodynamics came into effect... things tended to fall out of order, to become more random. Thus there were thorns and thistles in the garden and things had to be maintained as they developed a tendency to break down. So the work that God gave people to do would become harder.

Did Adam and Eve die when they ate the forbidden fruit?

Adam and Eve immediately died spiritually when they ate the forbidden fruit and they would eventually die physically as well. Note the consequence that God told Adam in Genesis 3:19, "*to dust you shall return.*" After the fall, death entered the world as a consequence. Before this, nobody died... in fact no animal had died.

What hope did God give mankind in Genesis 3:15?

Genesis 3:15 - 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."

God promised the Messiah would come through their descendants that would make it possible for their sins to be forgiven.

What hope did God give mankind in Genesis 3:21?

Genesis 3:21 - Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

God shed blood to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness. This represented the blood of His Son that would be shed to ultimately cover our sins. The first creature to die was killed by God to represent the blood of Christ.

Since it was Adam and Eve who originally sinned, why do the rest of us have to suffer the consequences of their sin?

We have the same sin nature as Adam and Eve...

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--

If any of us were in their place, we would have disobeyed God just as they did...

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

And...

Romans 3:10 - As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;

So we were all born as sinners...

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

This is seen in the natural selfishness of children. Parents do not teach their children to act selfishly; they do so naturally because of our sin nature.

What is the antidote to the consequences of our sinful condition?

Believing in the plan of salvation that God has for us and trusting in what Christ did on the cross as making it possible for us to be righteous before God...

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

All we need to do is trust in Jesus alone for our salvation:

John 5:24 - Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.