

Faith Formation – Week Five

The Doctrine of Humanity and Sin

The Creation of Humanity

Why Were Humans Created?

Not because God was lonely: Acts 17:24-25

To enjoy Him: Psalm 16:11; 27:4

For His glory: Is. 43:7, 21; 1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Peter 4:11

Humans Are Made In God’s Image God made us like Himself in many ways: Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6

Moral Aspect We have an inner sense of right and wrong: Rom. 1:18-19; 2:14-15

Immaterial Aspect We are physical *and* spiritual beings; and will live eternally.

Mental Aspect We know, think, use abstract language, and are self aware. We use history, science and mathematics.

Creative Aspect We create literature, art, music. We appreciate beauty. We build for more than function alone.

Relational Aspect We reflect the complexity within the Triune God through our relationships with Him and with other humans: John 17:20-23; Eph. 4:1-6

Functional Aspect We rule and subdue creation: Gen. 1:28-30; 2:15

The Fall of Humanity

Being made in God’s image, humans were originally created as morally perfect beings.

God commanded Adam to abstain from eating the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil: Gen. 2:16-17

Both the man and the woman sinned by rebelling against God: Gen. 3:6-7

As a result all humans become sinners. Romans 5:12

Although not destroyed, the image of God within all humans became distorted: James 3:9; Eph. 4:22

Sin

Nature of Sin

Sin is defined primarily by the character of God: Exodus 20:1-2; Psalm 11:7; Rom. 3:23

- Actions: Exodus 20:3-17; 1 Peter 3:12

- Attitudes: Matt. 5:22,28; Acts 8:22
- Motives: Prov. 16:2; 1 Cor. 4:5
- Omissions: James 4:17
- Unintentional or ignorant trespasses: Lev. 4:22

All sin is not equally bad with respect to degree of consequences or severity of punishment, but all sin is equally wrong: James 2:10

The Results Of Sin

Physical Death The separation of soul from body: Gen. 3:19

Spiritual Death The eternal separation of one's soul from God: Rev. 20:15

Corruption The sinful nature inherited from Adam: Ps. 51:5; Rom. 3:9-18; Gal. 5:19-21

Guilt The legal status of being condemned: Rom. 5:12; 15-19; 6:23

Punishment The eternal consequence of the guilt of sin: Rom. 6:23

- The believer's punishment is poured out on Christ: Gal. 3:13; Heb. 9:26-28
- The unbeliever's punishment is poured on the individual: Rom. 2:5-8; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:7

Application:

As humans, we are a special and distinct creation of God and have inherent dignity.

We should recognize and value the image of God displayed in each of us, as well as in the world.

Men and women are co-regents of creation. They enjoy equal status and value before God. The differences in gender roles and characteristics together reflect His image.

The solutions for the various results of sin are found not in ourselves, but only in Christ:

- Payment for the penalty of sin by removing our legal guilt: Covered in session 6
- Eternal life instead of spiritual death: Covered in session 6
- The renewal of His image in us by becoming increasingly more Christ Like: Covered in session 8
- A rescue from physical death at the resurrection: Covered in session 10