

## Purpose of Our Study

In these notes we will study the Christian teaching regarding mankind.

## Outline of Study

1. Creation of Man
2. Constitution of Man
3. The Fall
4. The Extent of Sin
5. Wrong Views

### 1. Creation of Man

Man was originally and immediately created in the image and after the likeness<sup>1</sup> of God on the sixth day of the creation week.<sup>2</sup> He was originally in a state of sinlessness or innocence.<sup>3</sup>

### 2. Constitution of Man

The image of God in man is the personal, spiritual, and moral likeness of man to God, rather than a functional or relational likeness to God.

Man is a soul or living being, the union of material and immaterial parts.<sup>4</sup> The material is the body, from the dust of the ground. The immaterial is primarily spirit, and can be classified in several parts, such as heart, mind, soul, and spirit. At death, the material and immaterial are separated.<sup>5</sup> At the resurrection, these parts will be reunited.<sup>6</sup> All people have descended from Adam and Eve so that the human race is unified<sup>7</sup> and receive their material and immaterial parts from their parents.<sup>8</sup>

### 3. The Fall

Adam fell by freely choosing to disobey God's command,<sup>9</sup> thus causing sin and death to enter into the world.<sup>10</sup> As a consequence of his sin, man lost his spiritual life immediately, becoming dead in trespasses and sins,<sup>11</sup> and became subject to physical death<sup>12</sup> and the power of Satan.<sup>13</sup> The image of God in man was thus marred after the fall, but is not totally erased.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Gen. 1:26-27; 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; James 3:9

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7-25; 1 Tim. 2:13

<sup>3</sup> Gen. 1:31; Eccl. 7:29

<sup>4</sup> Gen. 2:7; 1 Thess. 5:23

<sup>5</sup> Matt. 10:28; James 2:26; Gen. 35:18

<sup>6</sup> Compare 1 Thess. 4:14 and 4:16; Php. 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:49

<sup>7</sup> Acts 17:26

<sup>8</sup> Gen. 5:1, 3

<sup>9</sup> Gen. 3:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:14

<sup>10</sup> Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:21

<sup>11</sup> Gen. 2:17; John 6:53; Eph. 2:1-3

<sup>12</sup> Heb. 9:27; Rom. 6:23; Gen. 5:58, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31

<sup>13</sup> Matt. 13:38; Acts 26:18; Col. 1:13; 1 John 3:8; 5:19

<sup>14</sup> Gen. 5:1, 3; Gen. 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; James 3:9

## 4. The Extent of Sin

The spiritual death resulting from the Fall and the consequent moral and spiritual corruption of human nature has been transmitted to the entire human race,<sup>15</sup> the Man Christ Jesus alone being excepted; and hence that every child of Adam is born into the world with a nature which not only possesses no spark of divine life,<sup>16</sup> but is essentially and unchangeably bad apart from divine grace, destitute of any moral good, and utterly unable to merit God's favor or contribute to his salvation.<sup>17</sup> This is called depravity.

The depravity is total in the sense that it affects every aspect of man's being: mind,<sup>18</sup> will,<sup>19</sup> heart,<sup>20</sup> body,<sup>21</sup> mouth,<sup>22</sup> affections,<sup>23</sup> etc. Man is therefore a slave<sup>24</sup> to sin, is God's enemy<sup>25</sup> and is under God's wrath<sup>26</sup> and condemnation because of His guilt.<sup>27</sup> All men, including true Christians, have a sin nature and do commit sin,<sup>28</sup> though the effects of total depravity are mitigated by the new birth.<sup>29</sup>

## 5. Wrong Views

On Biblical grounds, we must reject the view that man is basically good, and the views that man is only spiritually weak or sick. Man does not have inherent ability to make a decision for Christ.<sup>30</sup> Unaided, he does not seek after God.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> 1 Kings 8:46; Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 3:9-18; 5:19; 1 Cor. 15:22

<sup>16</sup> Psalm 51:5; 58:3

<sup>17</sup> Isa. 64:6; Matt. 19:25-26; Rom. 4:5-6; 5:6; 8:7; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5

<sup>18</sup> Eph. 4:17-19

<sup>19</sup> John 5:40; 8:34; 1 Peter 4:3

<sup>20</sup> Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Jer. 17:9; Mark 7:21-23; Rom. 1:24; Eph. 4:18

<sup>21</sup> Rom. 8:10

<sup>22</sup> Rom. 3:14

<sup>23</sup> John 3:19

<sup>24</sup> John 8:34; Rom. 6:6, 20; Titus 3:3

<sup>25</sup> Rom. 8:6-7; Col. 1:21

<sup>26</sup> John 3:36; Rom. 1:18; Eph. 5:6; Col. 3:6

<sup>27</sup> Rom. 3:19; 5:16, 18

<sup>28</sup> 1 John 1:8, 10

<sup>29</sup> 2 Cor. 5:17

<sup>30</sup> John 6:44

<sup>31</sup> Rom. 3:11