



Man as God's Creation

“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.”

- BF&M (2000)

Man is the special creation of God

Genesis 1:26–28 ESV

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Note the phrase, “Let there be” used repeatedly from v3 thru v25. Then, the phrase “Let us make” for the creation of humans.

*“This act of creation is clearly special. It is even more obviously special when we consider the enormous amount of selectivity involved in the creation account. We are given nothing on the creation of angels, only passing reference to the stars, which we know today form galaxies extending for millions of light-years, and the thousands of species of animals are mentioned in large groups. The **creation of humans** was the feature the author of Genesis selected for special emphasis.”*

- John S Hammet

Asah (h) - _____

Bara (h) - making that is distinctively of _____

We are divinely and uniquely created by God.

Made in His own image.

tselem (h) - _____

demuth (h) - _____

3 General ways for viewing the Image of God.

- 1. The _____ View** – the view that the image is identified as some definite characteristic or quality within the makeup of the human.
- 2. The _____ View** – the view that the image is the experiencing of a relationship between man and God, or between 2 or more humans.
- 3. The _____ View** – the idea that the image is not something present in our makeup, nor in the experiencing of a relationship, but in something one does, especially the exercise of dominion over creation.

5 Parameters for understanding the image of God

- Creation in the image of God is affirmed for _____*
- Creation in the image of God involves being like God in some _____ way*
- Creation in the image of God is the _____ for human uniqueness and dignity*
- Even after the fall, humans are spoken of as being in the image of God, so the image is not completely _____ in the _____.*
- Moreover, since Christ is the perfect image of God ([Heb 1:3](#)), and the result of ... [our restoration through Christ] is being fully like Christ ([Rom 8:29](#), [1 Cor 15:49](#), [1 Jn 3:1-2](#)), we may speak of the image of God as being not only our created _____ but also our eschatological _____.*

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.

A common cultural distinction: many today say “sexuality” to narrowly refer to the physical, biological manifestations of maleness and femaleness, and “gender” to refer more broadly to the learned, culturally varying ideas associated with male and female.

“At the same time we do not want to overemphasize the differences. Men and women are far more alike than they are different. They are both image bearers of God. Furthermore, Scripture addresses us far more often as humans, or believers, than as men and women. Males and females share a common calling (to Christlikeness); we may fulfill it differently, however, because of our differences.”

- John S. Hammett

Complementarianism – we affirm the equality of men and women in their nature, worth, and dignity, but believe that they have different but complementary roles in the home and the church.

“Essentially, a complementarian is a person who believes that God created male and female to reflect complementary truths about Jesus. That’s the bottom-line meaning of the word. Complementarians believe that males were designed to shine the spotlight on Christ’s relationship to the church (and the LORD God’s relationship to Christ) in a way that females cannot, and that females were designed to shine the spotlight on the church’s relationship to Christ (and Christ’s relationship to the LORD God) in a way that males cannot. Who we are as male and female is ultimately not about us. It’s about testifying to the story of Jesus. We do not get to dictate what manhood and womanhood are all about. Our Creator does.”

- Mary Kassian

1. Did you grow up in the Baptist tradition, or did you find your way to this denomination later in life? What has your journey to CVC looked like in your life?

2. In the past, what did you think Scripture meant when it stated that men and women were made “in the image of God”? How has your view of what that means expanded over time?

Notes:

Man as Fallen before God

“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.”

- BF&M (2000)

What is sin?

“Our view of the nature of God influences our understanding of sin. If God is a very high, pure, and exacting being who expects all humans to be as he is, then the slightest deviation from his lofty standard is sin and the human condition is very serious. If, on the other hand, God is himself rather imperfect, or if he is an indulgent, grandfatherly type of being and perhaps a bit senile so that he is unaware of much that is going on, then the human condition is not so serious. **Thus, in a real sense, our doctrine of sin will reflect our doctrine of God.**”

- Millard Erickson

Chata (h) // hamartano (g): _____

Romans 3:23 ESV

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Notes:

3 Realities of Sin

1. _____ – at the most basic level, at the core of who we are, we are sinful:

[Jer 17:9](#)

Jeremiah 17:9 *ESV*

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

John 3:19 *ESV*

¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

2. _____ – sin takes what is good and corrupts it

“despite our apparent good intentions, corrupt motives also lie behind the good things we do.”

- Stanley Grenz

3. _____ – every one of us participates in sin

[Romans 3:23](#) (ESV)

²³ for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God,

Psalm 143:2 *ESV*

² Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

What is the mechanism of sin?

“Our human experience is clear: Although on occasion we do what is right and indeed live in accordance with certain aspects of God’s law, our human nature has been corrupted. The source of our sinful attitudes and actions is not merely the external environment; rather, they issue forth from the inner core of our being, from the human heart.”

- Stanley Grenz

What are the effects of sin?

_____ – God’s original design was for us to live in harmony with him, with one another, and with creation. However, sin has disrupted this harmony, and a fundamental effect of sin is the loss of our community – in every dimension of harmonious existence God created for us.

- a. _____ – our environment suffers, and as Paul says in [Rom 8](#), even groans under the bondage of sin
- b. _____ – as we are all sinful and self-serving, we find ourselves exploiting and being exploited, competing for power, influence, etc, ultimately alienating us from one another
- c. _____ – although we were created to be God’s friends and children, our sin has made us enemies of God ([Rom 5:10](#))

_____ – we stand guilty before our creator. The wages of our sin is death ([Rom 6:23](#)). Jesus also uses the metaphor of debt for sin in the Lord’s prayer in [Matthew 6](#): “and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

_____ – we already read earlier where in [John 8:34](#), Jesus says that everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

- a. We also see this in many places across the NT: [Romans 6:6](#)

_____ – our human inability or powerlessness to remedy our dire situation.

- a. We can do nothing to “get ourselves right” before God, nothing to improve our lot with him.
- b. Grenz: “If our human condition is to be altered, we require a power no less than God himself.”

Notes:

A Note on Free Choice

“God created things which had free will. That means creatures which can go either wrong or right. Some people think they can imagine a creature which was free but had no possibility of going wrong; I cannot. If a thing is free to be good it is also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having. A world of automata—of creatures that worked like machines—would hardly be worth creating. **The happiness which God designs for His higher creatures is the happiness of being freely, voluntarily united to Him and to each other in an ecstasy of love and delight compared with which the most rapturous love between a man and a woman on this earth is mere milk and water. And for that they must be free.**”

- C.S. Lewis

Man as Redeemed by Grace

“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.”

- BF&M (2000)

Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God.

It is ONLY by God’s grace and God’s power that we are able to re-enter into the fellowship of God through Jesus Christ.

iii. Paul explores this in [Romans 5:18-19](#)

Romans 5:18-19 ESV

¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

¹⁹ For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

In the same way that we are all condemned before God and deserving of death because of the sin inherited from one man, Adam, Paul writes that also through the singular obedience of the Son, we all can walk rightly and in harmony with God as designed.

The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man;

Romans 5:6-8 ESV

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—

⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.