

Man

1. Man created in the image of God.

A. Man was not created a sinner.

Gen. 1:26-30, Gen 2:18-22, Gen 2:7

When God created mankind through Adam and Eve, they were created in the image of God. The phrase “in the image of God” has two important meanings.

The first is that God created man sinless. Man was not a Sinner when he was created. This is the meaning of the phrase that they were both naked but were not ashamed. In the Old Testament biblical sense, naked can have two meanings. At first is being without clothes. But the second meaning is more important. It means there was nothing that was hidden. There were no secrets that they were keeping. There was nothing for them to be ashamed of. Everything about them was revealed. And so Old Testament writers use the term there were naked. There was nothing hidden. They had no sin to hide or be ashamed of. Man was not created as a Sinner.

A newborn child is pure. They are innocent of all sin. And that is how man was created. God created man in the image of God. They were created sinless.

B. The Image of God includes the capability of choice.

Rom. 6:16, Rom. 1:18-25, Rom. 1:28, Is. 53:6

The second important meaning of being created in the image of God, means that God created man with the capacity to make choices. Just as God can choose to do something or not do something. God created man with the capacity to make choices. The power to reason and to make choices is a power that God has given to you. God has created you in his image. That means God has given you the power to make decisions.

2. From the first Man was tempted and chose to sin.

Genesis 3:1-6,11-13

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve used their power to make decisions to choose to sin. They chose to do exactly what God told them not to do. Adam and Eve chose to sin.

3. Sin is universal, all men choose to sin.

Rom. 3:23, Rom. 3:10-19, Romans 5:12-13

We are no different. When God created us, we were sinless. But as we grew up, there was a time we chose to lie, to deceive, to steal. God gave us the power to choose. And our choice was to do that which we knew we should not do.

No one sins by accident. We sin by decision. That is the reason we hear God's voice in our Hearts. When we're thinking about doing something, we know we shouldn't do it. Our heart tells us don't do it. That voice is the voice of God's Holy Spirit in our hearts. And it tells us not to do what we're thinking about. And we know we shouldn't do it. We do not sin by accident. We sin by choice. It is a decision we make.

4. The consequences of sin

A. Broken relationship with God.

When a friend finds out that you have lied to him, it breaks that relationship between the two of you. When you discover that a friend has stolen from you, it destroys the relationship between the two of you. When that happens, it makes you realize that the relationship doesn't mean anything. It tells you that the relationship is unimportant.

It's the same way with God. When we choose to do what God has told us not to do, we are declaring that our relationship with God does not matter to us. It says this thing I want to do is more important to me than my relationship with God. So it is by our decision to sin we break the relationship between ourselves and God.

B. Eternal Death

Rom. 6:23, Rom. 6:16, Gen. 2:17

When God created Adam, he breathed into him the breath of life. God is the giver of life. The life that you have is because God has given it to you. And if in this life we choose to sin against God, we break our relationship with him. There is no life without God. And if we end this life without relationship with God, then there is no life for us. And so when this life ends, we enter into eternal death.

5. Hope for man is in the Grace of God in the work of Jesus Christ.

Rom. 3:23-26, II Peter 3:9, II Tim. 1:8-10,

Grace is the term we use to describe when God gives us something we do not deserve. God in His love for us sent Jesus Christ so that we could know Him. In his words and his actions, Jesus revealed to us who God truly is. And what Jesus teaches us is that God loves us. Jesus's death on the cross was the punishment for our sins. If we confess our sins to God and ask him to forgive us. He gives us a forgiveness we do not deserve. That is the Grace of God.

Summary: Man

Man was created in the image of God.

There is nothing that God has created which is evil.

There is nothing that God has created to lead men to sin.

All men sin by their own personal choice.

An important note.

In Genesis 2:16 - 17. God tells Adam and Eve they must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He says because if you eat from that tree, you will surely die. In early translations of the Hebrew, they use the term apple for that fruit. That has led to a lot of confusion about the apple. The truth is, the apple as a fruit was not important.

What is important is revealed to us in Genesis 3. The serpent begins to discuss with Eve the fruit. Eve tells the serpent that they must not eat the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. She tells the serpent. Because when they do, they will surely die. What's being discussed is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In verse four the serpent says that you will not surely die. And then the serpent gives us in verse five the key to understanding these verses. The serpent tells Eve that God knows that when she eats from it, her eyes will be opened and she will be like God, knowing good and evil. And suddenly Eve decides the fruit is good for food and it's pleasing to the eye. She decides if she eats it, it will make her wise.

The temptation for Eve was not the fruit. The temptation was what the fruit represented. She could be like God. That is the temptation that the fruit represents. Why do we sin? We want to decide for ourselves what is good and what is evil. We want to be our own God. That is the temptation of sin. To do what we want in our life and not what God wants for us. And so instead of living as God's creation. We want to be our own God.

Have you ever listened to someone who drinks too much alcohol and gets drunk? Think about what they say:

Don't you tell me what to do! Nobody's is going to tell me what to do. I'm going to decide for myself what I'll do. I don't have to listen to anybody. I don't have to do what you tell me to do. Nobody's going to tell me what to do. I'll do what I want to do.

What are they saying? I'm going to be my own god. God is not going to tell me what to do. And this is exactly what we say in our hearts when we choose to sin. No one's going

to tell me what to do. I'm going to decide for myself what to do. I'm going to be my own god. And so we choose to sin. And in our sin we know good and evil. We know what is good. We know what is right. And we choose to do that which is evil. We have chosen to be our own god. And by that choice we have chosen separation from God Almighty. And separation from God is eternal death.

We need to understand that the apple is not our temptation. It is to make Ourselves the god of our life. To live for ourselves. To tell ourselves we are wiser than God. To worship ourselves by living our lives, to serve ourselves. The temptation is to believe that we can be like God.

You may have heard someone talking about God sending someone to hell for their sins. I would like it to make it clear for you that God does not send anyone to hell. The truth is, God gives everyone the desire of their heart.

There are people who live and commit sins. Then they come to an understanding of God's love for them. They confess their sins and ask God to forgive them. They ask God to help them as they live. And every day of their life, they live their life looking to God. Asking him to help them. And they do stupid stuff and sin against God. And they struggle in their hearts and ask God to forgive them. And their life becomes an everyday process of struggling to be closer to what God is calling them to be. To do better than which God wants them to do. And they keep failing. And they just can't get it right. And they ask God to forgive them and help them to do better tomorrow. And they live their life in a relationship with God, asking Him to help them. Asking Him to forgive them. Asking Him to help them to be who God wants them to be.

And then one day they die. And at the end of their life, God gives them the desire of their heart. Every day in their life they showed God they wanted to be closer to Him. Every day in their life they showed Him they wanted to leave these sins alone and be closer to Him. Every day in their life they showed Him they wanted to be who God wanted them to be. And so at the end of their life, God gives them the desire of their heart. And God takes them to live with Him. Why? Because every day they demonstrated the desire of their heart was to live with God.

There are people who live and commit sins. And they hear that God loves them, but they don't want to have anything to do with Him. They want to do what they want to do. They don't want God interfering in their life. And so every day they live for themselves. Every day they show God. I don't want anything to do with you. I have my own things I want to do. Every day they hear in their heart: Don't do those things which you know are wrong. But every day they say shut up and let me do what I want to do.

And then one day they die. And at the end of their life, God gives them the desire of their heart. Every day in their life they showed God they wanted nothing to do with Him. Every day they showed Him they did not care what he thought. Every day they made it clear that they were living for themselves and they were not interested in anything to do with God. And so at the end of their life, God gives them the desire of their heart. They go to the place that God has prepared, separated from Him. He gives them the desire of their heart, and they will not have to be with God or have anything to do with Him. They go to the place that God has prepared for wasted lives. That place we call Hell.

The truth is, God does not send anyone to hell. At the end of our lives, God gives to us the desire of our hearts. Some people will go to heaven. That is because every day they demonstrated their desire to be with God. Some people will go to Hell. That is because every day they demonstrated their desire to have nothing to do with God. People go to Hell because of their own choices. God gives everyone the desire of our hearts.