

Man & the Problem of Sin



98) What is man?

- A. Man is a created being. Man was created in the image and likeness of God. He was given dominion to rule over God's creation.

"the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

GEN 2:7 NIV

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' [27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

GEN 1:26-27 NIV

99) What does it mean to be made in God's image and likeness?

- A. Man was made in the spiritual, moral, and personal image of God.

1. Spiritual image.

- a. Man has a spirit and can commune with God.

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1THESS 5:23 NIV

2. Moral image.

- a. Man has a conscience and knows right from wrong.

"So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man."

ACT 24:16 NIV

"Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience."

ROM 13:5 NIV

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"Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way."

HEB 13:18 NIV

3. Personal image.

- a. Like God, man has a personality comprising mind (reasoning), will (choices), and emotions (feelings).

"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

ISA 1:18 NIV

- B. Man was not made in the physical image of God. God is Spirit and has no "body" as we know it.

"No man hath seen God at any time," the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."

JOHN 1:18 KJV

100) Does man still bear the Image of God?

- A. No. Man fell in sin. In the fall, man died spiritually and lost his moral compass. Man retained his ability to think, make choices and feel, but has lost his way spiritually and morally.

"To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted."

TITUS 1:15 NIV

- B. Although we can still think, make choices, and have feelings, our personalities have been corrupted by sin.

101) What was the Fall?

- A. When God created Adam and Eve, He created them perfect.
B. He placed them in a perfect place, the Garden of Eden, and gave them dominion over the rest of creation.
C. God placed one restriction on them; they were not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

"And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; [17] but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.'"

GEN 2:16-17 NIV

- D. Satan, in the form of a serpent, tempted Eve to disobey God.
E. Man was designed to be dependent on God for everything in life. Satan tempted man to rebel and become "like God," that is, independent of God.
F. Both Adam and Eve ate of the fruit and sin entered their hearts.

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. [5] "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

[6] When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."

GEN 3:4-6 NIV

102) What were the consequences of the Fall?

A. For the first time, man lost his innocence and gained the knowledge of sin.

"Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. [8] Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. [9] But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" [10] He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

GEN 3:7-10 NIV

- B. Woman was cursed with painful childbirth; the husband was placed over the wife in authority.
- C. The earth fell under a curse. Thorns and thistles would plague the soil.
- D. Man would have to work hard just to live.
- E. Man was promised physical death.

"To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." [17] To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. [18] It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. [19] By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

GEN 3:16-19 NIV

- F. The first blood was shed for sin.
- G. Man suffered spiritual death (that is, spiritual separation from God).
- H. Man was driven out of Eden so that they would not eat of the Tree of Life.
 - 1. If they had eaten of the Tree of Life in their sinful state, they would have lived forever in an unredeemed condition.

"The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. [22] And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." [23] So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. [24] After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life."

GEN 3:21-24 NIV

103) Why did God place the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in Eden yet forbid Adam and Eve from eating it?

- A. God created man "in His image." Along with intelligence and emotion, man was given a will, the ability to make free choices. Without a choice, having a free will is meaningless. Adam was given a clear command and an opportunity to exercise his will.
- B. God always tests our hearts. Without being tested, not even we would know what is in our hearts. The presence of the tree and the command not to touch it was Adam's test of obedience.

"And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; [17] but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

GEN 2:16-17 NIV

"But when envoys were sent by the rulers of Babylon to ask him about the miraculous sign that had occurred in the land, God left him to test him and to know everything that was in his heart."

2CHRON 32:31 NIV

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts."

PSA 139:23 NIV

"The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart."

PRO 17:3 NIV

104) What effect did Adam's sin (the Fall) have on me?

- A. As an offspring of Adam, you share in the consequences of his sin. You are born in a state of sin and separation from God.
 - 1. We all share in Adam's "original sin."

"Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."

PSA 51:5 NIV

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man (Adam), and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned -"

ROM 5:12 NIV

"But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, ..."

GAL 3:22 NIV

105) What is sin?

- A. Sin is an offense or trespass against God's holiness.
 - 1. The most common Hebrew word for sin means "offense" or "trespass."
 - 2. The most common Greek word for sin is "missing the mark."
 - a. It is from a military term having to do with shooting an arrow at a target. Whenever you miss the target, you sin.
- B. We sin whenever our behavior falls short of God's standard of righteousness.

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

ROM 3:23 NIV

- C. God gave us the Ten Commandments and the Law so we would know what His standards were.
 - 1. Any violation of His standards is sin.

106) Why was Jesus' death on the cross necessary?

- A. Sin has separated man from his God. The result of that separation is death, both physical and spiritual.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

ROM 6:23 KJV

- B. Jesus' death on the cross gave sinful man a chance to be "saved" from eternal death.

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

MATT 1:21 NIV

"and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. [21] Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. [22] But now he (God) has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation - [23] if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant."

COL 1:21-23 NIV

107) Why do I need Jesus as my Savior?

- A. Man has two problems:
 - 1. He is a sinner.
 - a. The price of sin is death.

"For the wages of sin is death ..."

ROM 6:23a KJV

- (1) It is possible to pay for your sins with your own death, but that does not cleanse your sins, it just pays the required price.
 - 2. Dead sinners go to Hell.
 - a. Even if you died for your own sins, you will spend eternity in Hell, separated from God.
 - (1) Only a perfect or sinless sacrifice can cleanse you from your sin.

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who

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takes away the sin of the world!"

JOHN 1:29 NIV

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, [19] but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."

1PETER 1:18-19 NIV

- B. Only Jesus can solve both problems because ...
1. He paid the price of your sin when He died on the cross.
 2. Because he was sinless, only His shed blood can cleanse you of your sins and give you eternal life.

108) What are the benefits that we can receive from Jesus' death on the cross?

- A. Forgiveness of our sins.
B. Eternal life in heaven.
C. Freedom from iniquity or generational sin.

"You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin (iniquity KJV) of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, [6] but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."

EXO 20:5-6 NIV

- D. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - [17] the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

JOHN 14:16-17 NIV

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACT 1:8 NIV

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

ACT 2:4 NIV

- E. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit.
1. Love
 2. Joy
 3. Peace
 4. Patience
 5. Kindness
 6. Goodness
 7. Faithfulness
 8. Gentleness
 9. Self-control

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

GAL 5:22-23 NIV

F. The power to live up to God's standard of holiness.

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"

PHIL 1:6 KJV

G. Gifts to serve God and the Body of Christ.

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. [8] To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, [9] to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, [10] to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. [11] All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines."

1COR 12:7-11 NIV

H. Healing for our physical body.

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: [15] And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

JAM 5:14-15 KJV

Name: _____ Group Leaders: _____

Date: _____

Homework for Chapter 8

Please answer the following questions from the textbook in full sentences and return to your Group Leaders next week.

- 1) Explain the significance of being made in the spiritual, moral and personal image of God.

- 2) List at least three consequences of the Fall.

- 3) What is sin?

- 4) Explain why Jesus died on the cross.

- 5) List five benefits that we receive from Jesus' death on the cross.
