

Anthropology: The Doctrine of Humanity

First Baptist Church Dandridge – Fall 2020

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Session Four: The Fall of Humanity (2)

2. Theological Consequences of the Fall

- b. **Broken Relationship with Others:** Outside of a broken relationship with God, the second worst consequence of the fall is a broken relationship with others. The fall first disrupted the marriage relationship between Adam and Eve, then it spread to their children, and from there it spread the whole world. Since the fall, humans have tended to be mean, insensitive, unloving, and harmful to each other. The world is filled with selfishness, manipulation, injustice, neglect, violence, abuse, and hatred. This is not what God intended, but the curse of sin and death made these characteristics of human nature a reality.
- **Marriage:** God created Adam and Eve to love and cherish one another. Adam was called to love, protect, and provide for Eve. Eve was called to come alongside as Adam’s loving companion, helping him rule the earth and bearing children for future generations. However, the introduction of sin corrupted their marriage – and all subsequent marriages – and we are living with this curse today.
 - **Genesis 3:16** – *“Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”* (The word “contrary” is later used to describe the effect of sin in Cain’s life, how it was contrary or against his spiritual nature, and he must “rule over it,” Gen. 4:7).
 - **Ephesians 5:22-25** – *“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.... Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her...”* (These commands were issued because human nature does the opposite).
 - **Matthew 19:4-6** – *“Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”* (Jesus taught these things because divorce was not God’s plan in the beginning – or ever).
 - **Point:** The nature of sin has made marriage very difficult, if not almost impossible for some.
 - **Family:** After God created Adam and Eve, he gave them a mandate to *“be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth”* (Gen. 1:28). However, after having children, it was apparent from the beginning that the sin nature corrupted their relationships as well. Sin makes its appearance in families through jealousy, bitterness, hatred, grudges, competition, neglect, etc.

- **Genesis 4:8-9** – *“Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, ‘Where is Abel your brother?’ He said, ‘I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?’”* (The very next chapter after the fall, Adam and Eve’s son Cain murdered his brother. Conflict between siblings and family members is found throughout the Bible; even Jesus’ brothers and sisters rejected him.)
- **Genesis 9:21, 24-25** – *“[Noah] drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent...and Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told two brothers outside...when Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, he said, ‘Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers.’”* (Not only was their disrespect between siblings, but a son mocks/abuses his father, and is cursed. Such family problems extend throughout the Bible and into homes today).
- **Ephesians 6:1-4** – *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’ (this is the first commandment with a promise), ‘that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.’ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”* (The reason these commands are placed in Scripture is because our fallen nature desires the opposite and difficulty follows).
- **Neighbor:** The Bible describes our “neighbor” as anyone we come into contact with, and commands us to love and do good to all (Luke 10:25ff). However, since the fall, humans have been in conflict with their neighbors: arguments, fights, gossip, jealousy, selfishness, racism, oppression, manipulation, injustice, violence, and war. The fall in the garden created a toxic relationship between people.
 - **Genesis 4:23-24** – *“Lamech said to his wives: ‘Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. If Cain’s revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech’s is seventy-sevenfold.’”*
 - **Galatians 6:10** – *“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone.”* (Paul reminded God’s people of these things because it’s the opposite of our fallen nature).
- **Church:** The curse not only affected the entire world, but even the people of God. The New Testament refers to the collection of those who have been redeemed by Christ as the “church.” But even though believers have been given new hearts and minds, there is still a remnant of our fallen nature called the “flesh” that pulls us away from God’s will. Therefore, even though believers are “brothers and sisters in Christ,” there is a tendency for conflict and division to rise within the church (e.g. arguments, gossip, selfishness, division, splits, etc.).
 - **1 Corinthians 1:10-11** – *“I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s*

people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers.” (The entire book of 1 Corinthians is a commentary on the fallen nature (flesh) that corrupts the local church).

- **Matthew 18:15** – *“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.”* (Jesus said these words because of the reality of brothers and sisters sinning against once another).

c. **Broken Relationship with Creation:** While the fall produced broken relationships with God and with others, it also resulted in a broken relationship with creation. Although God created humans to live in and rule over the earth, including all creatures and plant life, the fall corrupted nature and made life difficult for humans on earth. The natural world would no longer be a friend but an enemy. Working the land will involve sweat and hard labor, and it will be dangerous.

- **Genesis 3:17-18** – *“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.”* (The world would become a dangerous and difficult place to live. Humans began to experience natural disasters, dangerous animals and plants, diseases, and other difficult conditions.)
- **Rom. 8:20-22** – *“For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.”*

d. **Broken Relationship with Life:** As a result of sin and man’s broken relationship with God is the curse of death. Such death comes in two forms: spiritual and physical.

- **Spiritual death** took place immediately, as Adam and Eve were removed from God’s presence and fellowship. This death would disable their hearts from fully seeking God and obeying him as he called them. Such spiritual death has been transmitted to all humans, so that all are born spiritually dead, unable to come to God without grace enabling them.
 - **Genesis 3:24** – *“He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.”*
 - **Ephesians 2:1-2** – *“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world...”*
- **Physical Death:** While spiritual death took place immediately, Adam continued to live on for 930 years, but then he died. Life has been limited to a certain number of years for every human since.
 - **Genesis 3:19** – *“For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

- **Genesis 5** expands on this curse by mentioning over and over, “*and he died...and he died.*”
- **Psalm 90:10** – “*The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty, yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.*” (Human life shortened considerable after the flood).