

Anthropology: The Doctrine of Humanity

First Baptist Church Dandridge – Fall 2020
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Session Three: The Fall of Humanity (1)

A. The Fall of Humanity

1. History of the Fall

- a. **Garden:** After God created Adam and Eve, uniquely making them into his image, he placed them in the Garden of Eden where they were called to worship and obey the Lord. They were to “*be fruitful and multiply*” and “*have dominion (rule) over*” the earth. Adam and Eve lived in a perfect relationship with God, with each other, and with the world around them. It was literally heaven on earth: they perfectly reflected God’s holiness and love and brought him glory, and experienced no sin, pain, suffering, hatred, violence, etc.
 - **Genesis 1:31** – “*And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*”

- b. **Probationary Period:** But this is what many theologians have referred to as a “*probationary period,*” where God would see if they would obey and honor his commands. If they obeyed, they would be allowed to live with God forever, along with all of their offspring, which would eventually mean that the entire world would be filled with people made in the image of God, perfectly reflecting his holiness and love, bringing God glory for eternity. However, if Adam and Eve failed, then they and everyone else would suffer devastating circumstances.
 - **Genesis 2:15–17** – “*The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*”

- c. **Fall:** We are not given a timetable, but somewhere between Genesis 2-3, Satan and other angels fell from heaven, as a result of rebellion toward God, and Satan was given the authority to tempt Adam and Eve in the Garden. While we know that God cannot tempt anyone with sin, we must acknowledge that God knew and allowed this temptation to take place, otherwise Satan would have the ability to overrule God, which can’t happen if God is truly “God.” However, Satan first tempts Eve and then Adam, and they disobey God together.
 - **Genesis 3:1, 6-7** – “*Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” ... So when the woman saw that the tree was good for*

food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.”

- **First Sin?:** Some have argued that the first sin was Adam not protecting his wife from the temptation of the serpent. He was called to have “*dominion*” (rule) over creation, but was apparently not keeping a close eye on the serpent who came to deceive. Adam’s role was to lead and protect his wife, which he failed to do.
- d. **Consequences:** After Adam and Eve sinned against God, there were instant differences and consequences that took effect. They immediately knew they were naked and made “*loincloths*” for themselves out of “*fig leaves*” (3:7). In a mysterious way, their relationship was fractured and filled with shame. Then, as God walked into the garden, they were afraid of God and “*hid themselves*” (3:8). As God asked them about their sin, Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent, revealing that no one was taking responsibility for their actions. Humans were already trying to atone for their own sins and making excuses for their guilt. However, God cursed Satan, Adam and Eve, all future humans, and all of creation.
- **Satan:** “*The Lord said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.’*” (Genesis 3:14-15)
 - **Eve:** “*To the woman he said, ‘I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.’*” (Genesis 3:16)
 - **Adam/Creation:** “*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. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground from out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return*” (Genesis 3:17-19).
 - **Inherited Guilt (Transmission of Sin):** “*Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.*” (Romans 5:12; cf. 1 Cor. 15:22). [Adam became our “federal head,” our representative; in other words, even though Adam sinned, any of us would have done the same, therefore we are all guilty along with Adam. Our own sinful nature and actions serve as evidence]
- e. **Summary:** Genesis 3 presents us with the most devastating development in human history. From this point forward, humans and the universe would be corrupt and cursed. The image of

God upon humans would remain but be distorted and unrecognizable at times. The only hope for humanity would be a Savior, which God introduced in Genesis 3:15 (Protoevangelion).

2. Theological Consequences of the Fall

- a. **Broken Relationship with God:** The most devastating consequence of the fall is our broken relationship with God, where our hearts and minds have been separated from God and are rebellious toward him. The first sin was much more than a mistake, it was a life-changing event, where God was so offended and man was so corrupted, that it was impossible for a mutual relationship to exist. God cannot enter the presence of sin and sinful man cannot stand before a holy God and live. Sin is such an offense to God that only eternal punishment will satisfy his anger and wrath.
- **Spiritually Dead:** We were born with hearts that were spiritually dead and unwilling to worship and obey God. Luther called this “*the bondage of the will.*”
 - **Ephesians 2:1-3** – “*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, and the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience... [who] were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*”
 - **1 Corinthians 2:14** – “*The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*”
 - **Rebellious in Nature:** We were born with hearts and minds that not only resisted God, but desire the opposite of God’s will.
 - **Romans 3:10-12** – “*None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.*”
 - **Colossians 1:21** – “*And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds...*”
 - **Ephesians 4:17-19** – “*Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.*”
 - **Romans 8:8** – “*Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*”

- **Eternally Guilty:** Because all humans are born spiritually dead and rebellious in nature, which is evidenced by a life of sin and disobedience, we have been eternally sentenced to spiritual death in hell.
 - **Romans 6:23** – *“For the wages of sin is death.”*
 - **John 3:18** – *“Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”*