

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Man

ARTICLE 3

III. Man

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. 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.

ARTICLE 3

III. Man *(continued)*

Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. 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.

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

OUR BELIEFS

Humanity

We believe that human beings are special creations of God, made in his image, possessing full dignity and worthy of respect and love. Through the sin of the first man, Adam, all humanity sinned against God, with the result that all people are sinners and need salvation.

GOD'S SPECIAL CREATION

- Men and women were directly created by God in a special, personal way.
- Genesis 2:7 - Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

GOD'S SPECIAL CREATION

- Genesis 2:21-23 - So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

GOD'S SPECIAL CREATION

- Human beings were created to glorify God (Isaiah 43:7; 1 Corinthians 10:31). We have significance and importance according to God.
- Human beings find their primary purpose in relating to God and following his will (Psalm 16:11; 73:25-26; 84:1-2, 10; Revelation 4:11).
- God himself rejoices over us as we glorify and enjoy him.

GOD'S SPECIAL CREATION

- Isaiah 62:5 - For as a young man marries a virgin, So your sons will marry you; And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So your God will rejoice over you.

GOD'S SPECIAL CREATION

- Zephaniah 3:17-18 - “The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy. “I will gather those who grieve about the appointed feasts - They came from you, O Zion; The reproach of exile is a burden on them.”

IMAGE OF GOD

- Genesis 1:26-27 - Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (cf. Genesis 5:1-2)

IMAGE OF GOD

- 1 Corinthians 11:7 - For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.
- James 3:9 - With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

IMAGE OF GOD

- **Moral Aspects**, such as an inner sense of right and wrong.
- **Spiritual Aspects**, such as our immortality and spiritual life.
- **Mental Aspects**, such as our ability to think, reason, imagine, use language, create, and feel.
- **Relational Aspects**, such as our ability to communicate, love, and interact with others.
- **Physical Aspects**, such as our ability to see, talk, hear, and do.

IMAGE OF GOD

- In making us in his image, God created human beings as male and female. Males and females together image God as they rightly relate to one another. In God's design, masculinity and femineity are distinct gifts, with distinct roles and responsibilities that each glorify God in their own way. This is seen especially in the family and the church.

IMAGE OF GOD

- Women and men are equally valuable to God, and one sex is in no way superior or inferior to the other. It is not better to be a man than or a woman or vice versa. All people have equal rights to salvation and a relationship with God (Acts 2:17-18; Galatians 3:27-28). Both genders are just as important to the church (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11; 1 Peter 4:10), and are capable of having the deepest possible relationship with God.

IMAGE OF GOD

- The image of God can be perfectly seen in the life of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is the perfect human being.
 - Jesus had perfect fellowship with God (John 17);
 - Obeyed God perfectly (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38), and;
 - Always loved other human beings (Matthew 9:36; 10:6; Mark 1:41; Luke 7:13).

FALL INTO SIN

- While sin was present in the angelic world with the fall of Satan and demons, sin entered the human race when Adam and Eve first sinned in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-19).
- Their sin struck at the basis of knowledge, as it came about because they doubted God's Word.

FALL INTO SIN

- Their sin struck at the basis of moral standards, as they disobeyed God and did what they wanted to do.
- Their sin struck at the basis of human identity, as they were humans, dependent upon God, but their sin was an attempt to become like God.
- Their sin was irrational, as it made no sense, it was foolish.

FALL INTO SIN

- There is a definite connection between the sin of Adam and the rest of humanity. His sin is also our sin, because we have all participated in that sin in some way. We are all guilty of his sin and deserve death because of it. Therefore, we receive from Adam both a corrupted nature and guilt (Romans 5:12-21).

FALL INTO SIN

- Romans 5:12 - Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned -

FALL INTO SIN

- When Adam sinned, God counted all of the future members of the human races as sinners. The reason that God did this is because he counted Adam as the representative of the human race. God counted the guilt of Adam's sin as belonging to all human beings.
- In addition to being imputed as sinners, we also inherit a sinful nature.

FALL INTO SIN

- We all commit actual sins each and every day for which we need forgiveness (1 Kings 8:46; Psalm 14:3; 143:2; Romans 1:18-3:20; 1 John 1:8-10).
- This is why we need redemption, because we are guilty sinners by nature and are unable to please God on our own.

SALVATION FROM SIN

- Sin distorts the image of God, but does not destroy it (Genesis 9:6; James 3:9).
- The only human being who has ever perfectly imaged God is Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4; 5:21; Colossians 1:15).
- The goal of our redemption is that we might become “conformed to the image of his Son” (Romans 8:39) and therefore be exactly like Christ in our character, relationships, and actions.

SALVATION FROM SIN

- As Christians at Christ's return our image of God will be completely realized as we become like him.
- 1 Corinthians 15:49 - And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.