

Humanity & Sin

Humanity at Creation

- Humanity was purposely created by God (Gen 1:27; 2:7; 5:1; 17:25)
- Humanity was created for God (Col 1:16)
- Humanity was created of matter and of the supernatural (Gen 2:7; Mat 10:28)
- Humanity was created in the image of God (Gen 1:27; 5:1; 9:6b)
 - Humanity was created male and female (1:27; 5:1), that is for complementary relationship
 - Humanity was created with dominion over creation, delegated sovereignty (Gen 1:28)
- Humanity was created for work (Gen 2:15)
- Humanity was created with creative freedom (Gen 2:19)
- Humanity was created to enjoy beauty (Gen 2:9; 3:6; Ps 104:15)
- Humanity was created to exist in independent family units (Gen 2:24; Mat 5:32)
- Humanity was created with a capacity to hear God (2:16; 3:9)
- Humanity was created with choice (2:17; 2:19)
- Humanity was created without sin (implied in that sin entered the world with the fall of Adam, Rom 5:19)
- Humanity was susceptible to sin in a perfect environment (don't think that the perfect environment will keep us or our children or anyone else from sin)

The Entrance of Sin into the World (aka "The Fall of Man")

- God gave a clear command
- Adam & Eve were lied to about:
 - the boundaries of the command (3:1),
 - the motives of God (3:5),
 - the consequences of disobeying God (3:4)
 - the benefits gained (3:5)
- Adam & Eve succumbed to the lies of greater insight/wisdom (3:6), particularly when they dwelt on the temporary pleasure they would derive from eating from the tree (3:6)
- It was in believing the lie (or distrusting God) and consequently disobeying God that they fell into sin.

What is sin?

- In Scripture, sin is associated with many different behaviors (Romans 1:28-31; I Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3-5; Colossians 3:5-9) (My sister was discussing sin with her youngest son. She asked him, "Can you tell me some things we say that are sinful?" And then began the list, with rapid-fire delivery: "Oh my gosh, oh my word, oh my goodness, oh my God, what the heck?")
- But ultimately sin cannot be defined by any list of behaviors. Rather it is defined as acting and living without faith in who God is and what He says (Romans 14:23; Hebrews 11:6).
- Other words for faith are belief, trust, and confidence. When we do not believe, trust, and have confidence in who God is and what He says then we sin.
- We sin first by distrusting God and secondly by disobeying him, as distrust always leads to disobedience.

The Impact of Sin on Adam & Eve

- Inexplicable sense of shame (3:7, 10)
- Fear of God that led to hiding from him (Gen 3:10)
- Increased pain in childbirth (Gen 3:16a) → is this just about the birthing process, or is it because every woman from then forward will have to bring their child into a broken world?
- Frustrated relationship (Gen 3:16b)
- Toilsome work (Gen 3:17-19)
- Unable to live forever (Gen 3:22)
- Banished from the garden (Gen 3:23)

These consequences were not limited to Adam and Eve, they became the inheritance of all subsequent humanity...

- We continue to hide our true selves from one another
- We fear being open with God and want to hide from him
- We continue to experience pain in childbirth
- We continue to have frustrated relationships
- We continue to have to work hard
- We are subject to death
- Paradise will always allude us

- Indeed “through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners” (Romans 5:19, see also Rom 5:12) both in the sense of the inclination of our hearts away from God and the consequences we must bear as a result
- The fact that through Adam's sin we inherited hearts inclined away from God is reiterated throughout Scripture
 - [Psa 14:2-3](#) The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.
 - [Psa 51:5](#) Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
 - [Pro 20:9](#) Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin"?
 - [Ecc 7:20](#) There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.
 - [1Jn 1:8](#) If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
- Because of this sin, we not only inherited the inclination to turn from God and the consequences of Adam & Eve's sin, Scripture tells us that a number of things happened to us relative to God...
 - Our lives no longer gave glory to him (Rom 3:23)
 - We became alienated and separated from God (Isaiah 59:2; Col 1:21)
 - We became God's enemies (Rom 5:10)
 - We came to stand in a place of condemnation and wrath (John 3:18; Romans 5:18; Eph 5:3)
 - We were utterly lost (Is 59:9-10; Matthew 18:12-14; Rom 3:17)
 - In summary, we were dead in our sin (Eph 2:1, 5; Luke 15:24) and destined to an eternity apart from God.
 - It is with this backdrop that we will now begin to talk about Jesus, the one who is said to be our Savior