

# Mankind: Created In Innocence And In God's Image

*"Life Foundations: Christian Faith Essentials", Part 12  
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***THE BIG IDEA: MANKIND IS THE CHIEF OBJECT OF ALL OF GOD'S CREATION  
WHO SUBSEQUENTLY "FELL" INTO A STATE OF SIN!***

*"Then God said, 'Let us make man... and let them rule...'" (Genesis 1:26a, NIV)*

## I) THE STUDY OF MANKIND: ANTHROPOLOGY

- 1) Anthropology seeks to understand the ORIGINS of mankind.
- 2) Anthropology seeks to understand the NATURE of mankind.
- 3) Anthropology seeks to understand BEHAVIOR of mankind.

## II) THE CREATION OF MANKIND: GOD'S PROCESS

### 1) God created mankind by DESIGN.

*"Then God said, 'Let us make man...'...It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him [woman]."* (Genesis 1:26a & 2:18, NIV)

### 2) God created mankind DIRECTLY AND IMMEDIATELY.

*"So God created man... male and female He created them."* (Genesis 1:27, NIV) (see next point)

### 3) God created man (Adam) from DUST and His BREATH OF LIFE.

*"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."* (Genesis 2:7, NIV)

### 4) God created woman (Eve) from the RIB OF ADAM.

*"So the Lord caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, He took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of man, and he brought her to man."* (Genesis 2:21-22, NIV)

### III) THE CHARACTERISTICS OF MANKIND: BEARING GOD'S IMAGE AND LIKENESS

*"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, in Our likeness...'"*

(Genesis 1:26a, NIV)

#### **View 1) The "corporeal" (body) view of how we bear God's "image and likeness":**

**The image of God is seen in our material and immaterial PERSON.**

**For)** God said He made man in His image and He did create both our material and immaterial parts.

**Against)** God is Spirit and has no body, so how can human bodies bear His image?

#### **View 2) The "non-corporeal" (non-body) view of how we bear God's "image and likeness":**

**The image of God is reflected in various facets of our PERSONALITY.**

**For)** It solves the "God has no body but humans do" dilemma.

**Against)** This seems to exclude the human body from having any connection with the likeness of God.

#### **View 3) The "combination" of views #1 and #2:**

**Best fit?)** Sees man as a "unitary" being (not parts) and a "living" being (bodies and spirits are living).

*"The image of God in which man was created included the totality of his being as living, intelligent, determining and moral."*

(From Charles C. Ryrie, "Basic Theology" p. 192)

### IV) THE NATURE OF MANKIND: UNDERSTANDING OUR COMPOSITION

#### **View 1) The "bipartite unity or dichotomy" view of our composition:**

**Mankind is made up of two parts, "material" and "immaterial", united in one entity.**

\*"Material" aspect consists of our bodies and physical body systems.

\*"Immaterial" aspect consists of our soul, spirit, heart, conscience, mind, flesh-nature, will, and the like.

#### **View 2) The "trichotomy" view of our composition:**

**Mankind is made up of three parts, "spirit", "soul" and "body", ranked in this order.**

**\*While the Bible is not definitive on this subject, "bipartite unity" best fits the biblical data.**

## V) THE FALL OF MANKIND: FROM INNOCENCE TO DEPRAVITY

**1) The “fall” of mankind is neither FALSE “legend” or TRUE “myth”, but historical fact.**

**2) The account of the “fall” of mankind:**

*“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*

*“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.”*

*“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. 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. But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” The man said, “The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.””*  
(Genesis 3:1-13, NIV)

**\*In this account we learn the following about the “fall”:**

- a) Adam and Eve had FREE WILL to decide how to live.**
- b) Adam and Eve were TESTED to determine their true obedience.**
- c) Satan in snake-form tempted EVE, not ADAM.**
- d) Eve FELL FIRST then GAVE the forbidden fruit to Adam.**
- e) Adam and Eve both RATIONALIZED their personal sin.**

**3) The ramifications the “fall” of mankind:**

*“So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, land between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” 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.” 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. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 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.” Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.”*  
(Genesis 3:14-20, NIV)

a) The “fall” led to punishments on the serpent and Satan, Adam and Eve, and HUMANITY. Innocence and sinless-ness was LOST for all humanity.

b) As a result, all people are BORN sinners and in a state of total depravity. (see Rom.3:10-18)

c) The image of God on mankind was DEFACED but not ERASED.  
(i.e. The image of God in fallen man was “damaged but not totally deleted”.)

## VI) THE IMPLICATIONS FOR MANKIND: LIVING UPRIGHT IN A FALLEN WORLD

1) Because God created us personally, He knows us INTIMATELY.

*“O Lord, you have searched me and you know me... you are familiar with all my ways.” (Psalm 139:1&3b, NIV)*

2) Bearing the “image of God” carries both PRIVILEGE and RESPONSIBILITY.

*“And the Lord God commanded the man, You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 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)*

3) Based on our “fall” into sin, we all need to LOOK UP for divine rescue from God.

*“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.” (Genesis 3:21, NIV)*

**SUMMARY THOUGHT: SINCE GOD CREATED ALL THAT EXISTS WITH EXCELLENCE, WE SHOULD WORSHIP HIM WITH SINCERE EXCELLENCE!**

## VII) QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION IN GROUPS OR FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

1) The creation account in Genesis 1-2 may have been familiar to you, or it may have been sketchy for you. Regardless, what did you find new in the details of the account of Adam and Eve?

2) Under the point on “bearing God’s image and likeness”, Charles Ryrie stated that we reflect God in the fact that we are “*living, intelligent, determining and moral*.” Explain how we are like God in each of these.

3) Do you think it’s fair that we all sin because of Adam and Eve? Explain (we’ll cover this next session)

4) What are some things you learned about yourself based on this study of mankind? Find two or three ways in which you can personally apply this session to your life.