

The Gospel Truth . . . *about the Human Condition*

The Gospel Truth Sermon Series, part 3

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Article 3: The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image (Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; Col. 3:10; Jms. 3:9), **but they sinned when tempted by Satan** (Gen. 3:1-6; Jn. 8:44; Rom. 5:12-14; 16:20; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:13-14). **In union with Adam** (Job 14:4; Ps. 51:5; Jn. 3:6; Rom. 3:12; 5:12-14; 1 Cor. 15:22a; 1 Jn. 1:8), **human beings are sinners by nature and by choice** (Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Isa. 6:5; Rom. 5:15; 8:5-8; Eph. 2:1-2; 4:17-19), **alienated from God** (Rom. 5:10), **and under His wrath** (Rom. 1:18; 2:5; 3:9-19; 3:23; Eph. 2:3). **Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ** (Act 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5) **can we be rescued** (1 Thess. 1:10), **reconciled** (Rom. 5:1,2,10; Col. 1:20) **and renewed** (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:24; Phil. 3:21; 1 Jn. 3:2).

Introduction:

Having something fixed implies that it is broken. Having something mended implies first that it is torn. Being found implies that we are lost. (Just ask the Prodigal Son!) Before we can understand and accept the path toward wholeness and personal peace with God, we would be wise to understand first where things went awry.

- I. Who we _____ originally in Adam Gen. 1-2 *Original Righteousness*

- II. Who we _____ in Adam Genesis 3:1-14 *Condemnation*

- III. Who we _____ in Christ Genesis 3:15 *Justification*

- IV. Who we _____ by the Holy Spirit Gal. 5:22 *Sanctification*

- V. Who we _____ before the Father Ph. 3:20-21 *Glorification*

Conclusion/Application

(Over, please)

Questions for Further Study

Note: I'm grateful for the EFCA website for these thought questions

1. Describe a time when you suffered as the result of someone else's sin.
2. Why is it important to state that God created Adam and Eve?
3. The Bible says that human beings are unique from the rest of God's creation because we are created in his image. What do you think it means that we are in the image of God? What does that mean for all humanity?
4. If humankind is created in God's image, how would you explain the person whose sin damages or hurts you?
5. After each statement, indicate if you agree, disagree, or don't know. Discuss why or why not with the rest of the group.
 - It is possible to reach the place where I do not sin anymore.
 - People in cultures that do not have the Bible are not guilty of sin because they don't know any better.
 - As I grow spiritually, sin in my life will be decreasing.
 - Some sins are worse than other sins.
6. Look up and read the following passages. Based on each passage supply one word of your choice to describe sin. *Try to be creative!*

Passage	Sin is...	Passage	Sin is...
Proverbs 13:15		Galatians 4:24-25	
Proverbs 28:13		Ephesians 2:1-3	
Isaiah 64:6		Hebrews 3:13	
Jeremiah 17:9		James 4:4	
Romans 1:21		I John 2:16	
Romans 7:18		I John 3:4	

Were you surprised by any of these verses? What insights did you gain?

7. The Bible teaches that we are sinners by **nature**. Write down and then discuss ways that this impacts the way you view and relate to other people in your life.
8. The Bible teaches that we are sinners by **choice**. Write down and then discuss ways that this impacts the way you view and relate to other people in your life.
9. Often sin is mentioned alone, without mentioning anything else. It becomes something we do, that adversely affects us. Why is it imperative to mention the vertical implications of our sin against God, viz. alienation and under His wrath? Why is that avoided today?
10. What is the sole remedy that God has provided to our sin?
11. What is the significance of the words "rescued, reconciled and renewed?" How does this prepare for the next article in the flow of redemptive history which focuses on the Person of Jesus Christ?

Giving Thanks - Reflect on some ways that you have been encouraged by this study.