

BASIC BIBLE DOCTRINE

Lesson 5

MAN (ANTHROPOLOGY) AND SIN (HARMARTIOLOGY)

The doctrines of man and sin are crucial to understanding many other doctrines. One of the grand themes of the Bible is the salvation of mankind through the redemptive work of Christ on the cross. Because of this it is imperative that we understand what man is, and how sin and the fall has affected him. The doctrine of sin is especially important because it helps us understand **1) why Christ had to die for us, 2) the magnitude of God's grace towards us, 3) the inability of man to save himself, 4) why God saves people the way He does, and 5) why men reject the gospel.**

I. MAN (ANTHROPOLOGY)

A. Origin of Man

Gen. 2:7, 18-22 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. . .18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."19 And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.20 And the man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.21 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.22 And the Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

B. The Constitution of Man

God created man in His "**image and likeness.**" "**Image and Likeness**" relate to those **non-physical qualities** we have that are like God in some degree. We have many attributes that God has which animals do not have. For instance, man has a need to worship, does introspection, self evaluation, has awareness of self, has emotion, has complex initiative, has complex social abilities, has a historical reference, etc. All these things set man apart from animals. But probably the greatest "image and likeness" is in the area of **function**. Just as God is ruler over heaven and earth so man was given dominion over the earth. God not only gave man a sphere of dominion but the commission to rule over the plants, animals, birds, and fish. This is clearly emphasized in the context of **Genesis 1:26-30**. Man was created to be ruler of earth like God who is ruler over all of creation.

1. Gen. 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."27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

2. Rom. 2:15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,
3. James 3:8 With it [the tongue] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God.
 - a. If someone were to ask you what it means that men were created in the image of God, how would you answer?
4. Some people believe man is made up of three parts. This is called the Trichotomist view of Man.
 - a. Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
 - b. I Thess. 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) Some believe that men are composed of three primary parts i.e., body, soul and spirit. They use texts like those cited above to support their view. Some have gone to great extremes to show how man is divided up into these three parts building elaborate theological systems of truth from this concept. Yet, the scriptures present people as composite entities. In other words, people come in a complete package. Flour is a major ingredient in cake but flour itself does not constitute cake. We must be careful not to divide people who are alive into parts when they come as a complete package. This view is also difficult to support from Scripture because the Bible doesn't always make sharp distinctions between, life, soul, spirit, emotion, the heart, the mind, conscience, and all the rest of the non-physical parts of man. One could argue that man is mind, soul, heart, and spirit because the Bible refers to that also. The trichotomist view of man is not the best view to take because it tries to make clear cut distinctions between the non-physical parts of man which the Bible does not.
5. Some believe men are made up of two parts. This is called the Dichotomist View of Man.
 - a. Rom. 8:10 And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.
 - b. I Cor. 5:5; 7:34 I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. . . 34 and his interests are divided. And the woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

- c. The better view is that man is composed of two basic parts i.e., physical and non-physical or the material and the immaterial, or the body and the soul or spirit. This view says that men come in a package of immaterial and material parts. At death, these two parts are separated and man becomes purely immaterial until he receives his glorified body. In **I Cor. 15:50** we read, **“Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”** Hence, the dichotomist view the better view. It acknowledges both the material and the immaterial parts of men but does not try to divide up the immaterial part of man into clearly defined pieces.

C. The Physical Part of Man

1. Gen. 3:19 By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”
2. I Cor. 15:47-50 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. . .50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

D. The Immaterial Part of Man

1. Job 7:11 “Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit, I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.
2. Prov. 18:14 The spirit of a man can endure his sickness, But a broken spirit who can bear?
3. Isa. 29:24 “And those who err in mind will know the truth, And those who criticize will accept instruction.
4. Psalm 51:12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, And sustain me with a willing spirit.

E. The Composite Attributes of Man

1. James 2:26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.
2. II Cor. 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
 - a. In your own words how would you describe the make up and constitution of man?

II. THE DOCTRINE OF SIN (HARMARTIOLOGY)

The Greek word for sin comes from an archery term meaning to miss the mark. In our case the bulls eye is the perfection of God. God created men perfect and put them in a perfect environment. But when Eve was deceived and Adam chose to disobey their holiness and original righteousness was lost. They became sinners having transgressed God's perfect standard. Because God is just and holy He had to respond to their rebellion. The whole of creation was cursed. Man's dominion was usurped by Satan who is now the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience (Jn. 12:31; II Cor. 4:3-4; Eph. 2:1-3; I Jn. 5:19). Sin has affected man in every area of his life and being. Man is totally depraved.

A. Origin of Sin

1. Gen. 3:1¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"
2. Jn. 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.
3. I Jn. 3:8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

B. Fall of Man

1. Gen. 3:1-14 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.'" 4 And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die! 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 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 desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. 8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of Thee in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." 11 And He

1 It is important to note that Gen. 1:31 says that the creation was very good. Chapter 2 of Genesis is an expansion of the sixth day mentioned in ch. 1. Yet, chapter 3 begins, "**Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made.**" This may tell us that Satan may have fallen shortly after creation some time between the sixth day of creation but before Genesis chapter 3.

said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"¹² And the man said, "The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate."¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."¹⁴ And the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly shall you go, And dust shall you eat All the days of your life;

2. Eve's part in the fall of man

- a. II Cor. 11:3, But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.
- b. I Tim. 2:8-15 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments; ¹⁰ but rather by means of good works, as befits women making a claim to godliness. ¹¹ Let a woman quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. ¹² But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. ¹³ For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. ¹⁴ And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression. ¹⁵ But women shall be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

3. Adam's part in the fall of man

- a. Hosea 6:7 But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant; There they have dealt treacherously against Me.
- b. Rom. 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—

C. How People Sin

1. James 1:14-15 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.
2. When God confronted Adam and Eve about their sin:
 - a. Adam blamed his sin on God for giving Eve to him and Eve blamed the Serpent for deceiving her. "Blame shifting" is still very common today as men do not want to take responsibility for their sin.
 - b. Satan cannot make a Christian sin he can only tempt them to sin. Satan cannot even be blamed for all of our temptation because he is not always responsible. Man is tempted from three primary areas:
 - (1) His own depraved nature and lusts

(2) From other men who are used by Satan

(3) From Satan and his demons

(a) God doesn't give us the ability to know if we are being tempted by Satan, demons, or our own sinful lusts. Bottom line is that we are responsible for our sins.

(b) I Cor. 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

D. Sin Defined from the Bible

1. Dan. 9:11 "Indeed all Israel has transgressed Your law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice; so the curse has been poured out on us, along with the oath which is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, for we have sinned against Him.
2. I Jn. 3:4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.
3. I Jn. 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.
 - a. What is sin according to the verses above?

E. The Pervasiveness of Sin

1. Isa. 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.
2. Jn. 3:19-20 "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil.20 "For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.
3. Romans 5:12-14, 19 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—13 for until the Law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law.14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. . . 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.
 - a. How many people are sinners?

F. When People Become Sinners

1. Gen. 8:21 And the Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.
2. Ps. 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.
3. Ps. 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb; These who speak lies go astray from birth.
 - a. When do people become sinners?

G. Man's Ability to Stop Sinning

1. Jer. 13:23 "Can the Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his spots? Then you also can do good Who are accustomed to doing evil.
2. Eph. 2:1-3 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
3. II Tim. 2:26 and they [those who live in opposition to the will of God] may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.
 - a. Can an unbeliever stop sinning if they try real hard to please God?

H. The Degree to Which Men Are Corrupted by Sin

1. Gen. 6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
2. Jer. 17:9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?
3. Mk. 7:21-23 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, ²² deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.²³ "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."
4. Rom. 1:21-23 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,²³ and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

5. Rom. 8:5-8 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
6. Eph. 4:17-19 This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; 19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.
7. Titus 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.
 - a. In the space below write down in your own words from the information gathered above how, why, to what degree men are sinners.

III. **THE EFFECT OF SIN ON MAN'S ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND SPIRITUAL TRUTH AND HOW IT HAS AFFECTED HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD AND SPIRITUAL THINGS**

- A. Many having never studied the affects of sin on mankind and don't realize how sin affects our attitudes about God and our ability to please, understand, and obey Him. As you read the verses below take note of how sin has affected mankind.
 1. Jn. 3:19-20 "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil.20 "For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.
 2. Jn. 5:39-42 "You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; 40 and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life.41 "I do not receive glory from men; 42 but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves.43 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another shall come in his own name, you will receive him.44 "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?45 "Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope.46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me. 47 "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"
 3. I Cor. 1:18 For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
 4. I Cor. 2:14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

5. II Cor. 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

6. Rom 3:9-19 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; 10 as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; 11 There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; 12 All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one." 13 "Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving," "The poison of asps is under their lips"; 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness" ;15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood,16 Destruction and misery are in their paths,17 And the path of peace have they not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes." 19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may become accountable to God.
 - a. According to the verses above, to what degree has sin affected every person?

IV. ERRORS CONCERNING THE SINFULNESS OF MAN

- A. *False* ➤ There are good, moral, upright people out there who do not know God.
- B. *False* ➤ Some people will be able to get to heaven because their good deeds will out way their bad deeds.
- C. *False* ➤ Every person has a God shaped vacuum inside of themselves which causes them to seek God.
- D. *False* ➤ People learn how to become sinners by watching their parents.
- E. *False* ➤ Babies are born sinless and then become sinners as they grow up.
- F. *False* ➤ The mind of man is not corrupted by sin and that is why we can reason with people and lead them to Christ.
- G. *False* ➤ Unbelievers are able to objectively weigh biblical evidence and then choose the truth.
- H. *False* ➤ Unbelievers are able to worship God.
- I. *False* ➤ Unbelievers are able to minister to others and give glory to God.
- J. *False* ➤ There is good inside of every man that just needs to be cultivated and encouraged.

V. APPLICATION

- A. We need to take responsibility for our own sin and not blame others or our circumstances for our rebellion against God.
- B. We think correctly about our sinfulness and not deceive ourselves into thinking we are good or that our good deeds outweigh our bad deeds.
- C. When witnessing to others we must never forget how sin has affected them and their ability to know the truth and obey the truth.
- D. We must take extra precautions to guard our own hearts knowing they have been corrupted and are easily lead astray into sin.
- E. When we see unbelievers entrenched in sin, we should not be angry with them but have compassion knowing that they are slaves of sin and Satan and are held captive by Satan to do his will.
- F. We need to remember that the only cure for mankind's sin problem is salvation through repentance and faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- G. If we know Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, we should be eternally thankful for being saved from the consequences of our sin.
- H. When we find ourselves repeating the same sin over and over again, may we not be discouraged and compound our sin by refusing to confess our sins to God and receive His forgiveness.
- I. When we are out in the world and see the masses of unsaved humanity, we must remember their real problem is that they are slaves of sin and Satan and do not know it. This should motivate us to share our faith more faithfull.