

In the beginning...**Adam & Eve: (One sin cast out-God's holiness Hab 1:13)**

Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.* (Pre-fall, sin not present)

Genesis 9:6 *"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.* (Also **James 3:9**) (Post-fall)

- Many discussions regarding what "in the image of God" means (intellect, will, emotion, reason, relation, etc)
- (Pre-fall) Morally speaking, Adam and Eve were made in the image of God in that they were sinless

Genesis 3 (Fall/Sin)

Effects of the fall on humanity:

- Adam is our representative (Anyone born of the seed of man is impacted by the fall in 2 ways) Condemnation in Adam and Sin nature in being born of seed (of man)
 - 1) We are all guilty/condemned in Adam (**Romans 5:18** *Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men*)
 - 2) We are born with a sin nature (We are born sinners, therefore we sin). We can understand the impact the sin nature has on humanity from the way scripture describes mankind from birth. **Genesis 5:3** *When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth*)
- **Psalm 51:5** *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
- **Jeremiah 17:9** *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*
- **Genesis 6:5** *The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*
- **John 3:19** *people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.*
- **Ephesians 2:1-3** *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind*

- **Romans 3:10-18** *“None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” ¹³ “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” ¹⁴ “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” ¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known.” ¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*
- **1 Corinthians 2:14** *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

The natural man is spiritually dead, has a deceitful heart which loves sin, and does not accept the things of the Spirit of God. He does not seek after God and he does not understand the things of God. He does not do any good, and he does not fear God.

Mankind is guilty in Adams sin (**Rom 5**), but man is storing up wrath for the day of judgment with his own sin (**Rom 2:5-6**).

Although we deserve hell (wrath of God **John 3:36, Rom 1:18; 2:5; 5:9; 13:5, Eph 5:6**) for our sin, God (in love) has sent His only begotten Son Jesus to suffer and die in our place. (**2 Cor 5:21**)

- **Romans 5:8** *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- **1 John 4:9-10** *In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

The biblical response to the gospel is “repent and believe” (**Mark 1:15**). The problem is mankind is spiritually dead (not seeking God, unable to understand) and will never repent and believe on his own.

On his own, the greatest mankind can ever produce is “filthy rags.” (**Is 64:6**)

What hope does mankind have? Mankind needs to be born again (to see his sin, to see Jesus as the all-sufficient Savior, to be granted repentance and saving faith)

This is where Nicodemus finds himself in **John 3 :1-21** V3 *Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

Ezekiel 36:22-31 What happens in the new birth (regeneration, born again)?

²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules....³¹ Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations.

In the new birth, we are granted spiritual life (awakened), we have new hearts (with new desires), the Spirit of God dwells in us (Helper), we free from slavery to sin, and granted repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

- Has this happened to you? Have you had a change in desire (Jesus, sin)?
- Pig analogy

Picture of new birth given in **John 11** (Lazarus) “*Lazarus, come out.*”

- Lazarus had been dead for 4 days. When Jesus commanded him to “Come out” did Lazarus raise himself from the dead and obey the command to come, or did Jesus grant life with the command (and raise Lazarus) and Lazarus came?

This is why we hear Jesus often say “*He who has ears, let him hear*” **Matt 11:15; 13:9**

The bible tells us there will be many false converts.

Matthew 7:21-23 “*Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’*”

- The false converts in Matt 7 believe they are saved, they profess Jesus as Lord but Jesus says He never knew them. How can you be sure you are not one of these false converts?
- The typical answer is “I believe, so I know I am saved.”

The bible teaches there are two types of faith:

- 1) Human affirmation and ascent, coupled with worldly sorrow (Dead faith)
- 2) Genuine saving faith (living faith) coupled with Godly sorrow leading to repentance and salvation

Godly sorrow vs worldly sorrow (**2 Corinthians 7:10**)

Living faith vs Dead faith (**James 2:14-26**)

- Genuine saving faith is evidenced by works (lifestyle)
- Works do not save us, we are saved by grace through faith apart from works (**Eph 2:8-9**), but works (lifestyle) proves that our faith is real (living).

Did you know that the bible gives an entire book so we can test to see if our faith is genuine (living) or dead faith? **1 John** (5:13 Summary of book)

- Let them know when John talks about “sinning”, he is not talking about perfection of life but direction of life (lifestyle)

Encourage them to test themselves to see if they are in the faith (**2 Cor 13:5**)

Remember in the false convert, they genuinely believe they saved, but what will they do if they fail the test of assurance but they believe they are saved? Will they believe their heart or the word of God

- If you take the test to see if your faith is genuine and pass, your assurance will be strengthened, but if you fail you must come to the conclusion that your profession of faith is not real and you are lost.
- Encourage them not to attempt to go “put on the fruit of genuine saving faith”, but rather to repent of their sin and believe the gospel, and if it is genuine, they will begin to bear the fruit of newness of life (**2 Cor 5:17**).

Pray with them and tell them you are willing to go through any of the verses again (as often as necessary). This takes work and time!

Give your life to the study of truth/gospel. Give up all other things that keep you from this (Good enemy of perfect)