

Creation of Man

I believe God created man, male and female in His image without natural processes (Gen. 1:26-28), that Adam and Eve were the literal first humans (1 Cor. 15:45). I believe that men and women were created to glorify God (Isa. 43:6-7), enjoy fellowship with Him, and fulfill His purposes on earth (Gen. 1:26-28).

Nature of Man

I believe God created man as a unified human composed of two substances, material (the body) and immaterial (heart), which consistently interact (Matt. 10:28, Matt:26:41, Jas. 2:26a). Man, both male and female are made in God's image (Gen. 1:26, 27) thus humans are the pinnacle of God's creation (Psa. 8:3-8) and serve to mirror and represent God (Col. 3:9-10). Since both men and women are created in God's Image, both men and women are equal in value, personhood and nature (Gen. 5:1-2). Men and women are equal in their spiritual standing before God (Gal. 3:28) and equal in their gifting from the Holy Spirit (1 Pet. 4:10). When sin entered into human history at the Fall, the image of God remained in all people (Jas. 3:9) though it is marred and in need of restoration through Jesus Christ (Col. 3:10). The restoration of the image of God progresses throughout a Christian's life (Rom. 8:29; Col. 3:9-10) and will be completed at the resurrection (1 Jn. 3:2; 1 Cor. 15:49).

Unity of Man

I believe God has made every human in His image, and every human (other than Christ) has descended from Adam and Eve, and therefore, without exception, we share common ancestry, purposes and characteristics. All humans, regardless of race, nationality, gender, or

sexuality should be valued and respected because they all bear God's image (Gen. 9:7) and are loved deeply by the Lord (Jn.3:16).

Sin

I believe sin is any thought (Heb. 4:12), attitude (Heb. 4:12), word (2 Cor. 12:20) or deed (Titus 3:3) that is contrary to the righteous character of God.

I believe sin originated in the angelic world (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6) with Satan (1 Jn. 3:8). Sin entered in the human race with Adam and Eve who were created in perfect fellowship with God (Gen. 1:31). Adam and Eve willfully chose to trust Satan's words rather than God's (Gen. 3:1-6). By doing so, Adam and Eve destroyed the perfect fellowship they experienced with God (Gen. 3:8-9), brought death (both physical and spiritual) to humanity (Gen. 3:19, Rom. 5:12, Eph. 2:1); their sin also damaged human relationships (Gen. 3:15) and corrupted the entire material universe (Gen. 3:17, Rom. 8:21-22).

I believe Adam was the representative of the entire human race, and humans inherit upon conception Adam's sin nature and imputed guilt (Rom. 5:12-19). All humans, therefore are born spiritually bankrupt (Eph. 2:1-3), alienated from God (Jn. 6:44) and unable to do anything that will please God (Heb. 11:6). Despite this, humans retain the Image of God (Gen. 9:6) and are able to do some morally good things (Gen. 20:6). Every human is condemned in Adam (Rom. 5:18-19), but each will be judged according to his or her own personal sins (Rom. 2:5-6).

I believe Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for sins (1 Jn. 2:1) and those who put genuine faith in Christ will have all their sins forgiven (Lk. 7:47-48).