

**Core: Establishing Essentials of Faith**  
**Session #2: God & Humankind** (The Nature of Humankind)  
September 15, 2021

**OVERVIEW**

Establishing an essential faith-foundation  
Historic, credal, Biblical Christian faith

**REVIEW: The Nature of God**

*"Great is the mystery of God"* (1 Timothy 3:16)  
The Attributes of God, the Deity of Christ, and the Person of the Holy Spirit

**Today: God & Humankind** (The Nature of Humankind)

**From Psalm 139:1–24** *O Lord, You have searched me and know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you know my thoughts from afar. You know my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue You know it completely. For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I was not hidden from You when I was woven together. Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days You've planned for me were written in Your book before a single one of them came to be. So search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in Your ways.*

**From Genesis to today**

**1. Genesis chapter 1: Creation**

**A. God created**

**Genesis 1:1-2** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

"Ex Nihilo"—all from nothing

**B. Six day creation**

1. "Let there be light"
2. Atmosphere & planet
3. Continents & vegetation
4. Luminaries—sun, moon, stars
5. Aquatic life & birds
6. Livestock & humankind

**Genesis 1:26–27** *God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

Imago Dei

**It's all good**

**Genesis 1:31** *God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.*

**C. Sabbath**

**Genesis 2:1–3** *Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.*

**Why did God rest from His labor?**

"Rest" = "ceased creating"

**Sabbath is the rhythm of the balanced, created order**

## Sabbath reminds us

**Exodus 20:8–11** “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

**Q: What do we learn?**

**God is God. We are not.**

**By virtue of our Creator, we have dignity and worth**

**Creation reveals God’s glory and provides fellowship with God**

**Psalm 19:1** *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

**Psalm 139:14** *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

## 2. Genesis chapter 2: Adam & Eve.

### A. Here comes Adam

**From Genesis 2:4–7** *This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created... when 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.*

### B. The Garden of Eden

**From Genesis 2:8-17** *Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 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.”*

The first commandment—boundaries & stipulations  
Enterprise and purpose—stewarding God’s creation

### C. Here comes Eve

**From Genesis 2:18-24** *The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” So the Lord God 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 the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*

**Q: What are we to make of this?**

Is it allegorical or actual?  
Where did other humans come from?  
Did Adam & Eve have belly buttons?

## Reflections

**Is it possible they were the start of the righteous line?** Genealogy of Jesus in Matthew (1:1-17) and Luke (3:23-38)

**The institution of marriage.** The orthodox view of the institution of marriage.

**Christ and His Church**

**From Ephesians 5:32** *Marriage is a profound mystery—it signifies the mystical union between Christ and His Church.*

## 3. Genesis chapter 3: The fall of humankind

## A. The serpent

**From Genesis 3:1-5** 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, "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 or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

## B. Deception & Disobedience

**Genesis 3:6-7** 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.

**2 Corinthians 11:3** I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

## C. The Curse—God lifting His hand

**Genesis 3:8-13** Then that man and woman heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid among the trees. But the God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And God 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 God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

**Genesis 3:14-19** 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.' <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'" <sup>16</sup> 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." <sup>17</sup> 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.' <sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> 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."

**Genesis 3:21-23** The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to eat also from the tree of life and live forever." So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which they had been taken.

### Q: What do we learn?

The gift of free will

The enemy of our souls—God's enemy, deception

"Original Sin"

Moltmann—"Miracles are not an interruption of the natural order, but the restoration of the natural order."

## 4. Redemption of humankind

### A. From Adam to Christ

**From Romans 5:12-17** Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned. But if many died by the trespass of one man, how much more does God's grace that came by one Man, Jesus Christ, overflow to many? Just as death reigned through one man, those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and righteousness through Jesus Christ will live.

**From 1 Corinthians 15:21-22** Just as death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

**B. From creation to new creation**

*2 Corinthians 5:17* Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

**C. From natural birth to new birth**

*John 3:5-6* Jesus said, "No one can enter the Kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."

**D. From grace to grace**

*John 1:16* From Christ's fullness we receive grace upon grace.

Prevenient Grace  
Justifying Grace  
Sanctifying Grace

**What's it all mean?****From human children to children of God**

*1 John 3:1* How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! But that is what we are!

**Reflections for this week:**

- **What challenges you Biblically?** (How do you understand Scripture differently?)
- **What challenges you ethically?** (How does this inform your morals and worldview?)
- **What challenges you personally?** (What might God be speaking to your heart about your personal life?)