

“THE SHATTERED IMAGE OF GOD IN MAN” – PART I

Preface: Man is created in the image of God, yet the image was shattered in the Fall. Sin had entered into mankind when Adam chose to disobey God and all subsequent generations of men share the guilt of Adam’s sin and the resultant corruption of their nature. Though all men continue to bear the image of God, it is distorted and diminished to a considerable degree. All men are both bearers of God’s image and carriers of the taint of Adam’s sin.

I. Man Created in the Image of God

Man was created in the image of God. R.C. Sproul writes in his book *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith*:

“The term man, when used in such Scripture passages as ‘God created man in His own image’ (Genesis 1:27) means humankind. Both male and female of the human species are made in the image of God. Part of the image includes mankind’s call to rule the earth, to have dominion over it. We are called to dress, fill, and keep the earth as God’s vice-regents. Here we are called to reflect the character of God’s righteous rule over the universe. He never ravages or exploits what He rules, but rather reigns in justice and kindness.”

A. Read Genesis 1:24-31 and answer the following questions.

1. On what day of creation was man created?
2. What other creatures were created on the day in which man was created?
3. What are the implications of God giving the authority and responsibility to “rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle...over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth?”
4. What pronouncement did God make after His work of creation on the sixth day?

B. Read Genesis 2:15-17 and answer the following questions.

1. What responsibility did God give Adam in the Garden of Eden?
2. What privileges did God extend to Adam?

3. What prohibition did God establish for Adam?

4. What would be the consequence if Adam disobeyed God's command?

C. Read Genesis 3:1-7 and answer the following questions.

1. What creature presented Adam and Eve with the temptation to disobey God?

2. What approach did "the serpent" take in tempting Eve?

3. What promise did "the serpent" make to Eve should she eat from "the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden?"

4. What did Eve do?

D. Read Genesis 3:7-19 and answer the following questions.

1. What was the immediate effect of Adam and Eve's sin?

2. What was the response of God to Adam and Eve's sin?

3. What are the particulars or the curse pronounced on Eve?

4. What are the particulars of the curse pronounced on Adam?

5. Where did Adam and Eve go after their *Fall* into sin?

E. For Further Discussion:

1. If Adam and Eve had not sinned, what would have happened to them?
2. Did God's warning that they would "surely die" if they disobeyed Him come to pass?
3. What principle can be understood from the fact that Adam and Eve did not die immediately following their sinful act?
4. Did Adam and Eve continue to bear the image of God after the Fall?
5. Was the rest of creation affected by Adam and Eve's sin? (See Genesis 3:17 and Romans 8:20-22.)
6. Does sin continue to carry the same devastating consequences for us that it did for Adam and Eve? (See Ezekiel 18:4)
7. Did Adam and Eve's sin negate their charge and responsibility as stewards of the earth? (See Genesis 3:23.)
8. If the world and all men born into the world are under Adam's curse, what hope is there? (See Genesis 3:15; John 3:16).