

Biology, philosophy, and psychology: bipedal, tool making, capability to think, intelligence, language, culture, morality.

What does the Bible say?

God created man in his image.

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

Gen. 2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Gen. 2:8 And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

3x God **created** man!
✓ In his image.
✓ By his hands.
✓ Breathed into man.
So Intimate!

Creature **owes obedience** to the Creator.
Creator **owes nothing** to the creature.

The **solitude** of man is **not good** because he cannot reflect the **fellowship of the Trinity**.

God entered into a relationship with man.

Gen. 1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ...

The Most High God willingly entered into a bond/agreement with a lowly man.

What to do:

Gen. 1:28-31 "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion ...

Creation ordinances:
1. Fellowship/marriage (1:27; 2:18, 23-24)
2. Procreation (1:28)
3. Labour (1:28)
4. Sabbath (2:2)

Gen. 2:2-3 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

God also tells man what NOT to do:

Gen. 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

God is telling Adam **how to live** in accordance with his nature (the image of God).

Adam's **obedience** and God's **blessings** go hand in hand and cannot be separated.

God's covenant with Adam binds Adam and his offspring, every human being.

Can be summarized as:

Do this and live! (Lev. 18:5; Gal. 3:12)
Obeys and you shall be blessed! (Lev. 26; James 1:25)

Obedience: **likeness** to God and **fellowship** with God

BUT ADAM DID NOT OBEY!

Adam's disobedience:

It is rebellion against God: sin → curses → death.

All of Adam's offspring **inherit sinful nature** and a **rebellious heart** against God.

Lessons:

- Human beings do not **become** human beings. We are **created** as human beings: M and F.
- As human beings, we have these needs. **Finitude ≠ fallenness.**
- As God's image bearers, though distorted because of sin, every life is precious.
- Turning from sins is not a rejection of one's identity.

Fellowship

- ☛ With God and with fellow man.
- ☛ Marriage, church, community.
- ☛ Be active in each other's lives.
- !! Unhealthy relationships.

Procreation

- ☛ Physical and spiritual aspects.
- !! The evil of abortion and euthanasia.
- !! High-risk activities.
- ☛ Have dominion, rule over creation.
- !! Cravings for power.

Labour

- ☛ God's provisions come through work.
- ☛ To separate between labour and provision is to dehumanize humanity.
- !! Work without provision.
- !! Provision without work.

Gen. 2:17 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

Eccl. 9:10a Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might.

2 Thess. 3:10b If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

Sabbath

- ☛ God rests, so the image bearers are to rest.
- !! Excessive vs. inadequate rest; the kind of rest.

God's commands are binding upon all human beings.

Every human being is created as the image bearer of God.

But fallen humanity is **unwilling** and **unable** to fulfill the requirement.

We fail to meet the **requirements** and incur the **punishment** we can never sufficiently bear.

Jesus bears the punishment and fulfills all the requirements for those who believe!

Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Adam fell because they obeyed the word of Satan rather than the word of God.

But salvation through Jesus is offered for you today.

Will you believe in Jesus and receive him as your Saviour and Lord?