

BC Article 14- Part 1 – The Fall and the Future

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: When God made man he commanded man to **have dominion over the earth** and to **worship God**. Today, man **worships the earth** and **wants to have dominion over God**. Man has completely reversed the duties God gave to him.

Why doesn't man **want to have dominion over the earth** and **worship God** instead (as God commanded)? And how can man remedy this problem? This is the subject from God's Word today.

Our headings are:

Creation before the Fall

Condemnation at the Fall

Conscience after the Fall

Our goals are: That you will be **reminded of your sinfulness** so that you can **appreciate more fully how Christ restored** you and so more **faithfully work for and worship God**.

We believe that **God created man out of the dust of the earth, and made and formed him after His own image and likeness, good, righteous, and holy, capable in all things** to will agreeably to the will of God.

But being in honor, he understood it not, neither knew his excellency, but willfully subjected himself to sin and consequently to death and the curse, giving ear to the words of the devil. **For the commandment of life, which he had received, he transgressed; and by sin separated himself from God**, who was his true life; having corrupted his whole nature; whereby he made himself liable to corporal and spiritual death. And being thus become wicked, perverse, and corrupt in all his ways, **he has lost all his excellent gifts** which he had received from God, and **retained only small remains thereof, which, however, are sufficient to leave man without excuse**; for all the light which is in us is changed into darkness, as the Scriptures teach us, saying: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness apprehended it not; where St. John calls men darkness.

Creation before the Fall: Holy and Pure

1. You can only get a proper sense of the fall of man when you get a proper understanding of your creation!

God created man! God formed Adam and personally breathed life into his nostrils. He made man with dust and **subjected him to gravity, time, and space**. God did not make him from gold...but dust!

2. Even though God made man from dust, God made him rich and gave him honor:

a. God gave Adam gold.

Genesis 2:11 The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

b. God made the world ready for Adam. Man was the highlight of creation – the crown of creation. **Man outranks the angels of heaven who were not given charge of creation.** This must make you praise God! If you are the special guest at a meal, would you be honored if your host waited until you arrived to start cooking? No. You feel special when things are prepared for you. That's what God did for Adam.

c. God made Adam in his image. "The image of God" means that man has some of the communicable characteristics of God: **good, just, holy, loving, the ability to rule**, etc. Man was made to act like God does in some circumstances and to reflect God to other men. **Man was to rule like God rules, love like God loves, and be holy as God, etc.** Illustration: An ambassador acts for the Prime Minister in a foreign country. **He doesn't have to physically look like the Prime Minister, but he has much of the authority of Mr. Trudeau.** So it is with you. You are to reflect God with the capacity God has given to you.

3. Because you were made out of mud, be humble and stay humble.

Be willing to serve instead of demanding to be served. How you talk to the waitress in the restaurant will reflect if you are cognizant of how you were created. How you act in the supermarket when you see people counting out dimes to pay for their food reflects how humble you are. How you react to someone of a different skin color, or to a Muslim, or someone from a different social status tells about your view of creation. **If you believe you were from primordial slime, you will act slimy.** But since God created you from dust, you will be humble! You will even **show your humility by how you rule the animals and plants.** You won't abuse God's creation.

4. Because you were made by God with honor, have a continual desire to praise him.

If you think that your honor is from your abilities, **then you will not care about worship.** Your ability to worship God has been restored to you in Jesus Christ. The non-believer can't worship.

5. Those who try to incorporate long-day creation and evolution into creation will never understand the depth of The Fall.

They are **robbing the Creator of the greatness of his miracle!**

Condemnation at the Fall

1. Man did not consider his great position with God great enough, so he transgressed God's law and ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden.

No one was holding a gun to Adam's head. No one was twisting his arms. It was willful and free. It was a sin of mature deliberation. On his own, Adam performed a reckless disobedient act in the Garden. And Adam is held primarily responsible for the sin because **he was the covenant head**. (Notice how the feminist who wants to be equal in all ways with men never blames the woman primarily for man's fall!)

2. Because of his sin, God separated himself from Adam.

This separation was death to man; man spiritually and physically died. Man is dead in his trespasses and sins.

Ephesians 2:5 ...even when we were **dead in trespasses**, made us alive...

3. What is the result of man being dead in sin?

a. Because man died in his sins, **he could no longer approach God**. The evening meetings between Jesus and Adam were gone. You don't have to wonder why!

Psalm 103:3 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

b. Because man was dead in sin, God took away his gifts he had given man and **God put man out of the Garden**.

c. Because man was dead in sin, **man was not able to have dominion over the earth** and wanted to **rule God** and **worship the creation instead**.

d. Because man was dead in sin, **man became enemies of God**.

Romans 8:7 - ...Because the carnal mind is enmity against God

e. Because man was dead in sin, he **waits for his just condemnation to eternity in hell**.

4. What is the extent of man's death in sin? Man became totally depraved.

a. Man's actions, thoughts, and words are totally and continually evil. Man can do nothing good. Man loves to do evil.

Romans 3:13-18 - "Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips"; "**Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness**." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their ways; And the way of peace they have not known." "**There is no fear of God before their eyes**."

This is very strong language, but it is truth. This depravity caused a father to pour sulfuric acid down the throat of his infant son. This depravity caused a lady to try to flush her newborn son down a McDonald's toilet. This depravity is what caused Idi Amin to steal men's wives, kill the men, and make soup with their livers. This is what caused Moummar Gadaffi to abuse young children, drug them and put them into mental institutions. This is what caused ISIS to use 12 year old boys to shoot Christians in their heads and cut their throats. (Only by God's grace you did not do the same thing!)

b. This sinfulness begins from childhood. Our children aren't born pure and then corrupted by society as Freud said, but were sinful from their mother's womb. Society just made them worse.

Genesis 8:21..."I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, **although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth**..."

c. And because Adam sinned, all his natural descendants are sinners and continue to sin.

Romans 3:9-11...Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written: "**There is none righteous**, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

5. Arminians argue that man is sick in sin, not dead in sin, but they are wrong

(They might say "dead in sin" but they mean "sick in sin.") By teaching this, they rob their hearers by **not showing them the severity of their need**. They are like a doctor telling a cancer patient that he has a cold.

How unkind, how catastrophic! It is an egregious violation of God's law to call sin, sickness. **Why?**

First, if man is only sick, Christ's death on the cross was not essential.

Second, the saved can never praise God as he should if he thinks he has only been saved from sickness rather than from death!

6. Liberals do not blame the person for his sin; they blame the environment, so they have a faulty solution.

They argue that governments or social organizations could fix the problems, usually by money. They say if everyone has guaranteed incomes, they wouldn't steal, and if people are sick, better health care will fix their underlying problem. But these things can never fix sins. They only exacerbate sin. Further, when youths sell drugs and shoot and kill, they blame the lack of investments in those communities. But many of the worst terrorists in the world were raised in wealth, comfortable homes and were highly educated.

7. For man to be able to worship God and have dominion over the earth, man needs to be re-created in Jesus Christ in his soul.

Only the renewed man can do this great work!

Conscience after the Fall

1. God kept a flicker of light so man could know God exists and he could see a measure of his own sin.

So the man who tries to excuse himself that he is sick, or acts like he is not bad, or blames the government, or his environment, is lying. All men have consciences. Yes, man can deny his conscience, but it is there.

Romans 1: 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that **they are without excuse...**

However, **this flicker of light is not bright enough for man to fully see all his sins nor bright enough for a man to know how to find help.** So you can see man has a great dilemma.

2. This is why man today needs the "Light of the World," the Lord Jesus Christ.

You can only learn of this Light in the Word of God. (**This is where the flicker of light must lead.**) There is no natural light within man...no inward spirituality! (There is no inner greatness in man, as Joel Osteen argues.) If you read the Bible, with God's help, your spiritual eyes will be opened, you will see your sin, and your heart will be moved to believe Jesus died for your sin. Only in God's Light will a man see light. **If man rejects that flicker and does not search for full Light, God will further condemn him.**

3. Do you see how much men need the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

This is where you come in! Share this Gospel! Pray for the spread of the Gospel. Support the Gospel!

Conclusion:

God created man perfectly good for his praise and glory. God created man in his own image. He gave man everything he needed and more. Yet man chose to act contemptuously. So man died physically and spiritually, and all his children with him. He became sinful in his whole being. He lost the ability to fulfill his purpose in life: To worship God and to have dominion. No wonder he worships the earth and wants to have dominion over God!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Do you think you are really a terrible sinner who fell into sin? Do you think you could kill your own child? Do you think you could abandon your husband and go and live with someone else? Do you think you could walk away from serving the Lord? Could you betray your best friend? Did you say "no?" The Bible says: "Yes." You can do that and much more. You could be worse! Joseph's own brother sold him as a slave. Jesus' "friends" abandoned, betrayed, and executed him. The Jews threw their young children in fire. **You are unable of yourself to do your duties, including ruling and worshipping!**

2. Knowing this, daily thank God your Lord Jesus obeyed perfectly for you – he never lied, he never hated, he never committed adultery, he never murdered, he kept the Sabbath Day holy for you. He imaged his Father. **And thank God in his death Jesus took the full punishment for when you do not obey.** Brothers, praise him like you never did before!!! For in Adam, all died, but in the 2nd Adam, Jesus Christ, many are made alive.

Finally, for our non-Christian friends today: Everything I have talked about the human condition is true for all of us. The only difference between you and us is that God accepts Christ's perfect life and sacrificial death as a substitute for us. You too could have Christ as your substitute if you ask him.