

The Doctrines of Grace

Doctrine 2- The Radical Ruination of Man

Part A/Lesson 1 of 1

Man before the Fall

Genesis 1:26-31

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

29 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;

30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, *I have given* every green plant for food"; and it was so.

31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. NASB

The Uniqueness of Man

The Bible declares that Man was purposefully and determinedly "made". The Scriptures very clearly proclaim that Man was created by God from the "dust of the earth" through a supernatural miracle in one single "evening and morning" division of time that God called "the sixth day". And no other part of Creation was just like Man. Man was different, distinct, and unique to everything else in the Universe that God made. And the uniqueness of Man is illustrated in four major ways:

1. The Uniqueness of *How* Man was Created
2. The Triune Godhead was Present in Man's Creation
3. The Uniqueness of Mans' Being
4. God Commanded Man to Subdue and Dominate the Earth
5. God holds Man Accountable

Let's look at each one:

1. The Uniqueness of *How* Man was Created

On the first "day" God created "Light"

Genesis 1:3

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. NASB

On the second "day" God created "Heaven"

Genesis 1:6&8a

6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

8 God called the expanse heaven... NASB

On the third "day" God created "dry land", seas, and all vegetation

Genesis 1:9; 10a; &11

9 Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

10 God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas...

11 Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, *and* fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so. NASB

On the fourth "day" God created the Sun, Moon, and stars

Genesis 1:14

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; NASB

On the fifth "day" God created fish and birds

Genesis 1:20

Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." NASB

And then on the sixth "day"- before God created Man- God created the land animals.

Genesis 1:24

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so. NASB

Notice that in every case *except* Man- the things that were created by God were created solely through His spoken Word. Yet, when God created Man- He said:

"Let Us make man..."

... and then notice how God went about to "make" this Man:

Genesis 1:27

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. NASB

Genesis 2:7

Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. NASB

So God was more intimately involved in Man's Creation than with anything else that He made. And this distinction is not accidental or arbitrary, but shows a very deliberate and wise Effort by God Himself to create Man *differently* on purpose from everything else that was made- even the animals. And this difference or distinction or uniqueness communicates the concept of a "relationship" that God Sovereignly initiated with Man that did not then, and does not now, exist between God and anything else in all of His Creation.

So from the *way* in which God made Man- we know that Man is unique, special, different, and set apart from everything else that was created by God.

2. The Triune Godhead Present in the Creation of Man

When Moses quoted Almighty God in **Genesis 1:26** to say,

"Let Us make man..."

... he used the plural form of the noun for God. And there are only three possible reasons for that:

- A. It was an accepted way in which Royalty spoke about themselves
- B. God was referring to the angels
- C. God was addressing the other two Persons of the Trinity (God the Son and God the Spirit)

The problem with Option A is that the grammar of the Hebrew language doesn't follow this rule at all. The problem with Option B is that this would suggest that angels were also made in God's Image- which is taught nowhere in Scripture.

That leaves only Option C as an intelligent, reasoned understanding of this mystery. And to believe that all three Persons of the Trinity were present in Creation is also confirmed elsewhere in Scripture:

God the Holy Spirit was there:

Genesis 1:2

The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. NASB

And God the Son was also present at Creation:

John 1:1-3

**1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was in the beginning with God.
3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. NASB**

Colossians 1:16

For by Him (Jesus Christ) all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. NASB

And so to believe that God was referring to all three Persons of the Trinity in this statement about Man's unique creation also serves to connect Man's relationship with the entirety of the Godhead. Again- this is unique to Man- as no other part of Creation has this kind of attachment to the fullness of the Trinity.

3. The Uniqueness of Man's Being

Not only is Man unique in the *way* that God made Man, and the fact that only Man has a relationship with all three Persons of the Trinity- but Man is also different from anything else in Creation through the uniqueness of his "being".

For example- when God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit said,

"Let Us make man..."

... He then went on to say *how* He was going to make Man:

Genesis 1:26b&27

... in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. NASB

Nothing else in all of the Inspired Record of Creation was created in the "Image" and "Likeness" of God- except Man. Once again- Man is unique in this Truth and is said to bear the "Imago Dei" (Latin: The Image of God). And part of what it actually means that Man was made in God's Image is found in five aspects of Man that are completely unique to Man:

- ✓ Man's Personality
- ✓ Man's Spirituality
- ✓ Man's Ability to Know
- ✓ Man's Self Determination or Will
- ✓ Man's Immortality
- ✓ Man's Behavior was Limited

Let's look at each one briefly.

Man's Personality

Man was not created as a machine that was simply "programmed" to respond to certain aspects nor was he created as a mere animal that is driven by an unconscious instinct. Man was created as a full grown mature adult- who had no childhood and who did not go through adolescence. Man was created as a thinking, personal, and self-conscious creature. (**Genesis 2:7**)

Man's Spirituality

Unlike anything else in Creation- Man was created with the very Image of the immortal God stamped on his soul, and thus, he is fully a *spiritual* being like his Creator. Man was originally gifted by God with a real and genuine capacity to know God, fellowship with God, and respond to God in obedience, worship, and joy. (**Genesis 3:8&9**)

Man's Ability to Know

Unlike the mountains, stars, galaxies, subatomic particles, or animals- Man was originally given the capacity to truly know and understand some aspects about the one true living God. Man did not know *everything* about God- the finite can never fully grasp the Infinite- but Man was able to know enough about God to alter his behavior and serve Him. Man was able to receive Revelation from God. (**Genesis 2:19&20**)

Man's Self Determination or Will

In the beginning- before the Fall- both Adam and Eve were created by God with a "will". They were able to consciously make choices that were unhindered and "free" in the truest sense of that word. They originally possessed no internal lust that would respond to temptation. (**Genesis 3:6**)

Man's Immortality

Man was "unlike God" in that he had a precise beginning (the moment he was created) but he was "like God" in that Man was given an immortal "soul" that would not and could not ever die. Originally this immortality included his physical body as well. (**Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:17**)

Man's Behavior was Limited

There has never been a time when Man was completely "free". At no time- before or after the Fall has Man ever been "the Master of his Own Destiny" or "The Captain of His Own Ship". Such absolute freedom is a myth. Even before the Fall- God limited Man, assigned him specific duties, and forbade him total freedom in his actions (**Genesis 2:15- 17**)

4. God Commanded Man to Subdue and Rule Over the Earth

Genesis 1:28

God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." NASB

Man was given both the responsibility and the honor of subduing the earth and ruling over it. This responsibility and honor was *imposed* on Man by God. This was not something that Man initiated- but something that originated from God. And from this we know that God made the earth in such a way that it is best used and it is at its most efficient and productive state when Man subdues it and rules over it. Left to itself- the earth is deadly, unproductive, and inefficient. In order for the planet to be useful to God's Glory (and Man's benefit) it must be subdued and governed by Man.

5. God Holds Man Accountable

Again, unlike anything else that God made- Man is held responsible/accountable by God for what God requires from him. Man is always and is in all ways responsible for his actions, thoughts, intentions, and deeds. And because this is true- God rewards Man for his willful and joyful obedience and punishes Man for his rebellious disobedience.

2Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. NASB

A Warning About Man and Deity

Even though it is true that Man is unique from everything else in Creation, and even though God made Man to have a relationship with Himself, no one should draw the conclusion that because of this- Man is "like" God in that he is in any way Deity before the Fall, after the Fall, after Salvation, or even in Heaven.

The Bible is crystal clear about this subject. Man was never God and Man will never be God. And Man is not made to be God through Salvation in Jesus Christ, and neither will Man become God in Heaven. The indwelling of God the Holy Spirit within Man does not confer upon Man any form of Deity or Divinity.

All teaching- from any source- either historic or modern- that assigns Deity or Divinity to Man in any way- is evil, blasphemous, false, unbiblical, and contrary to everything the Bible teaches about both God and Man.

Man is Unique but not Alone

Although the Bible teaches that Man is unique- it also teaches that Man is not alone. The Man that God created shares a common Purpose with the other elements of God's Creation.

Psalms 104:31

**Let the glory of the LORD endure forever;
Let the LORD be glad in His works; NASB**

Romans 11:36

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen. NASB

Colossians 1:16-20

16 For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.

17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

19 For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,

20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven. NASB

The Bible is clear that Man was created uniquely- but Man was not the only thing that God created.

The Woman

Genesis 2:18-24

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

23 The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man."

24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. NASB

Now there are several things to note in this Passage. Among them are:

- ✓ God did not ask or consult with Adam about a mate- but simply said, "**It is not good for the man to be alone...**"
- ✓ God *could* have allowed Man's problem about "aloneness" to be solved through the animals- but He didn't. God solved that problem by making a Woman.
- ✓ God *could* have made all humans to be Male. God *could* have made the Woman at the same time and in the same way that He made Man- but He didn't.
- ✓ The Divine Purpose for which God made the Woman was, "**The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him... I (God) will make him a helper suitable for him."**
- ✓ The Divine Order of *Complementarianism*- which is Male headship (servant leadership) and Female submission (servant helper) was established by God *before* the Fall, and is *not* a product of the sin of Adam and Eve.

Complementarianism Versus Egalitarianism

Complementarianism is the Biblical concept which teaches that in the beginning- God wisely and purposefully made them uniquely Male and Female, and that based on that uniqueness- God established a Divine Order which is expressed in Male headship/accountability (servant leadership) and Female submission/support (servant helper). Complementarianism teaches that while the Fall perverted the relationship between Man and Woman- the distinct roles for Man and Woman were ordained by God *before* the Fall, and are *not* the results of the Divine Curse upon Mankind, and thus they are *not* removed, set aside, or fulfilled through Salvation in Jesus Christ. Complementarianism is a fixed concept and standard which teaches that God is glorified by both Man and Woman honestly and joyfully striving (in the Power of the Spirit) to fill these already pre- ordained roles.

Egalitarianism is the relative concept which teaches that sex has no bearing on either headship/accountability or submission/support, and that the roles of Man and Woman are best defined by sex neutral abilities and attributes- all governed by differing circumstances. Egalitarianism teaches that Male headship and Female submission were the result of God's Curse on Man and Woman after the Fall and thus are removed through Salvation in Jesus Christ. Egalitarianism is a highly flexible concept that allows for sex defined roles to be shared or even reversed – depending on various circumstances.

It is one of the goals of this Study to assert that the Scriptures clearly teach that *only* the Complementarian model honors God and fulfills the Divine Order that was established at Creation- before the Fall.

Summary of Man's Condition Before the Fall

- All three persons of the Trinity were present at Man's Creation
- Man was uniquely and intimately "made" by God on the sixth "evening and morning" division of time called "day".
- Man was fashioned out of "the dust of the earth"
- God breathed into Man's nostrils "the breath of life", and Man became a "living soul"
- Adam was created as a full grown adult Male- a thinking, personal, and self-conscious creature.
- Adam was originally gifted by God with a real and genuine capacity to know God, fellowship with God, and respond to God in obedience, worship, and joy.
- Adam was Sovereignly given assignments and duties to carry out, and was held accountable to God for his obedience
- Adam was able to know enough about God to alter his behavior and serve Him
- Adam was created with a "will" that was "free", and made choices that were not coerced

- Adam was immortal- both physically and spiritually
- Adam was not Deity
- God imposed His Will on Adam by making him a “helper”
- The “helper” that God made Adam was “suitable for him”
- God made the Woman from the Man and for the Man
- God brought the Woman to the Man
- God established a Divine Order of Male headship/accountability and Female submission/support before the Fall
- Adam was fully accountable/responsible to God
- Man was not Deity, is not Deity, and never will be Deity

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.

Recap of Lesson One

1. What concept does the unique way that God made Man communicate to us that has not ever and will not ever be true about anything else that God made? _____

2. Why did God say, "Let Us make man..." _____

3. In what way does Man bear the "Imago Dei" (Latin: the Image of God)? _____

4. What else was created in the "Image and Likeness of God beside Man? _____

5. What does **Genesis 2:7** tell you about Man's Personality? _____

6. What does **Genesis 3:8&9** tell you about Man's Spirituality? _____

7. What does **Genesis 2:19&20** tells you about Man's Ability to Know? _____

8. What does **Genesis 3:6** tell you about Adam's "free will" that he had before the Fall? _____

9. What does **Genesis 1:27** and **Genesis 2:17** tell you about Man' Immortality? _____

10. What does **Genesis 2:15-17** teach about Man's Freedom? _____

11. Complete this sentence: "God made the earth in such a way that it is best used and it is at its most efficient state when... _____

12. Does God hold Man accountable? _____

13. Some teach that Man was a God at one point; while others teach that Man is made to be God after Salvation; while still others teach that Man will become God in Heaven. What does the Bible teach about this issue? _____

14. What is meant by the statement, "Man is unique but not alone" _____

15. What are some Biblical distinctions about the creation of Woman that you learned in this Study? _____

16. Briefly describe the struggle in the modern Church between Complementarianism and Egalitarianism _____

17. What do you think is the foundational issue behind both? _____

Bonus Question:

If Adam had no fallen nature and no internal lust that could be "drawn away" to sin- how did he sin? _____

Super Bonus Question:

Was it possible for Adam not to have sinned? _____
