

GIC 101:

Soteriology – The Study of Salvation

Being estranged from God and condemned by our sinfulness, our salvation is wholly dependent upon the work of God's free grace. God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight. Only such as are born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God and heirs of eternal life. – EPC Essentials # 4

Begins with Anthropology

Westminster Shorter Catechism #1

What is the primary purpose of man?

To glorify God and **enjoy** Him forever.

Creation

- God has prepared **everything** for man before He creates man – Gen. 1:1-25.
- God did not create man to be a helper. God had provided everything for man **before** man even appeared!

Man was created for a **relationship** with God

The Creation of Man - A Picture of Salvation

- One purpose of the historical account of the creation of man is to give us a picture of **salvation**

(re-creation; 2 Cor 5:17; John 3:3; Eph. 2:10)

Origin of Man – Genesis 1:26-27

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

“Let Us Create MAN in Our Own Image . . .” (v. 26)

- The **Godhead** (the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit) plans MAN.
- Man is not an accident but a part of GOD's plan.
- Consider the **worth** of our souls – created in the image of God Himself!

Genesis 2:7-8

“...the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.”

We were set apart from the rest of creation, made by His own hands and He breathed life into us.

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The Creation of Man “adam” (Genesis 2:7)

- GOD took **DIRT “adamah”** (literally “dry earth”, “dust”) and **added His Spirit**.
 - GOD **breathed** “neshemah” HIS SPIRIT to MAN and THAT SPIRIT GAVE MAN LIFE.
 - a living soul, “nephesh” Gen 2:7
 - See Job 27:3; 33:4; Acts 17:25; John 6:63.
- See Isaiah 29:16; 64:8; Romans 9:21.

God created man in his **image** ...

The Image of God

- God is **Spirit**. (John 4:24)
 - God is **incomparable**. (Job 23:13; Isaiah 40:18, 25; 46:5)
 - Consider: Deuteronomy 4:15-18
- God breathed into man His own Spirit. (Genesis 2:7; Job 33:4)
 - Man became a “living soul.”
 - **Body**+ SPIRIT = Man

Material Matter + Mind, Emotion and Will

Man’s Spirit: Mind

God wanted to communicate intelligently through spoken and written word to man. Thus God gave man the ability to **think** and **reason**.

Consider children: their wisdom compared to their father’s.

Compare our wisdom to God’s. (Isaiah 55:8-9; 1 Corinthians 1:25)

- Man was given a mind to hear and understand God – God plans, and God’s ways.
- God communicated instructions to Adam and he understood.

Man’s Spirit : Emotions

God loves (Jer. 31:3), hates (Psalm 5:5; 11:5; Mal. 2:16); feels joy and happiness (Jer. 9:24; Zephaniah 3:17)

Consider parents and their children. Parents love their children and want their children to love them and one another.

- Man was given **emotions** to respond to God out of love and devotion.
- God fellowships perfectly within the Trinity, and He made man so that He and His creation might **fellowship** with Him and each other.
- This fellowship is **Real Intimate** fellowship. It is likened to a husband and wife becoming one flesh.

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Man's Spirit : Will

God plans and decides. God wills things to happen. (Jer. 51:11, 1 Thes. 5:16-18)

- Man was given a will so that He could choose to carry out God's plans, commands and work.
- Man was to be God's representative on the earth. (His image ruling over His creation.)

But Man chose his own way...(Genesis 3:6-7)



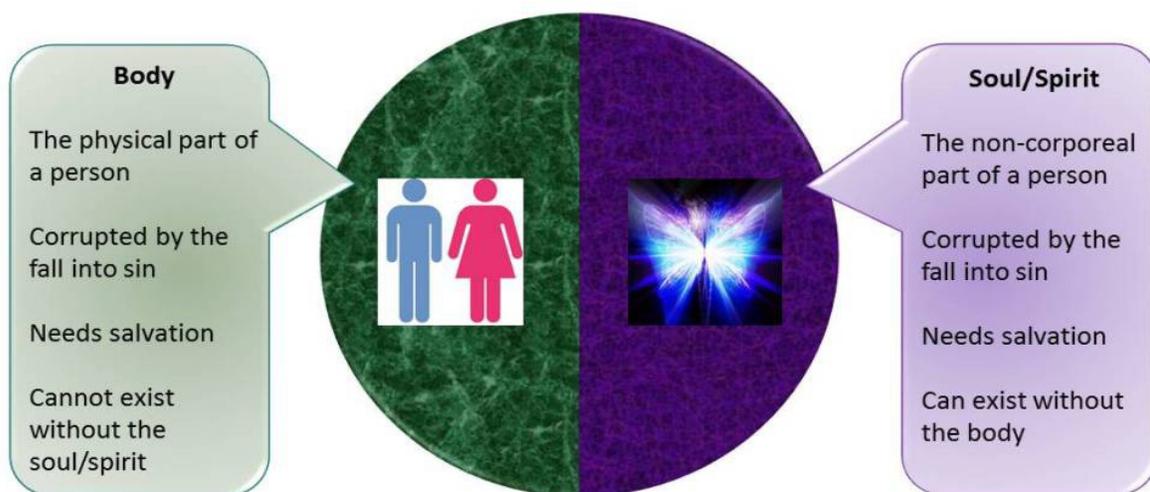
Our likeness to God includes our intellect and moral nature. God is spirit and the human soul is also spirit (in His likeness). This sets us apart from the rest of creation and makes us capable of communion with our Maker.

Spirit

God – One of a Kind

Angels – Spiritual Beings

Man – the soul, our spiritual component in the likeness of God



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Sin = any failure to **conform** to the moral law of God in act, attitude or nature.

Ways to Sin against God:

Acts- lying, stealing, murder, and adultery

Attitudes – coveting (Ex 20:17), anger, lust (Matt 5:22, 28) or jealousy, selfishness (Gal 5:20)

Nature – our moral nature, this is our internal character and the essence of who we are, before Christ's redemption, we are sinners by nature. (Rom 5:8, Eph 2:3)

Effects of the Fall

Immediate Effects:

A sense of guilt and shame

Desire to **hide** from God

Brokenness in relationship between man and woman

God's righteous judgment on the serpent, man and woman, tempered by grace

Expulsion from the **Garden**

Total Depravity

Our Fallen Nature is **inherited** from Adam

We are totally unable to please God on our own.

God must intervene to save us.

Utterly Depraved or Radically Depraved?

Free Will? – **Yes**

But **influenced**

Where did sin come from?

God did not **sin**, nor is He to be **blamed** for it. (Deut. 32:4, James 1:13)

It is man who sinned, and angels who sinned, and both did so of their own choice and will.

Before Man's sin, **sin** existed in the angelic world with Satan and his demons. (Isa. 14:12-15)

Man chose to deny God's truth and chose instead to become "like God" (Gen 3:5) – they put themselves in the place of God.

*Sin **starts** in the heart.

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Because of Adam's sin we (all mankind) inherited:

His **Guilt**- (Rom 5:12-21) Adam being the first man, represented us all – this is **legal** guilt judged to us by God in his righteousness.

His **Corruption**– original pollution (Ps 51:1-5, 58:3, Eph. 2:3) – this does not mean we are as bad as we could be, God has given us civil law, family and societal expectations and our own **conscience** to convict us. (Rom 2:14-15)

The Inherited effects on our Nature Sin's Corruption

Our **Nature** is not spiritually good before God – every part of us is affected by sin – our intellects, our emotions and desires, our hearts, goals, motives and even our physical bodies. (Rom 7:17, Titus 1:15, Jer. 17:9)

Our **Actions** are unable to do spiritually good before God (Rom 8:8, John 15:5). Unbelievers' actions do not please God because they do not proceed from faith in God or a love for Him (Heb 11:6)

- Sin marred the **image** that man was created in. Man failed to use that which God gave him for God's glory.
- The image of God was radically **damaged**, therefore:
 - Our understanding and thinking was darkened. (Ephesians 4:18)
- The natural man (fallen man) **cannot understand the things of God.** (1 Cor 2:14)
 - Our emotions have become warped. We love people and the things of the world more that we love God. We are more **devoted** to the self, the world, family, careers, and friends than we are to God. (Matthew 22:36-38)

The Inherited effects on our Nature Sin's Corruption

Are we free to act still?

Yes- But we still have no ability to do right before God and please Him, and that is true **freedom**.

We finally inherit what God promised in the Garden - **death**

The earth was cursed because of Adam's sin, man and woman were also cursed and the effects of spiritual separation from God and physical death became a reality for all of man's descendants.

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Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in *Christ Jesus our Lord*.

