

The Doctrine of Man & Sin (the Human Condition)

1. What does it mean to be Human? (our origin, likeness & purpose)

- God created us in His image: & blessed us to be His people for His eternal glory (vs26ff; Ex 19:1ff; Jn 17; Eph 2-3; 1Pe 2:9f; Rev 21-22)
 - we our relational (like our Triune God): spiritual beings created with a body, to live here on earth, in fellowship with God/one another
 - we our rational: able to reason/morally accountable to our Creator
 - we represent God's rule: given dominion over creation (care for it)
 - we reflect God's glory: thru holiness, beauty, creativity, etc.
- God created Man – Male & Female: & commanded us to multiply
 - Equality: men & women are equal and complementary in nature
 - Companionship (marriage, sex, family): for our good & procreation; foundational to/blessing for society; reflective of the gospel/church
 - Historical & Cultural Gospel Relevance:
Adam/Eve are historical; all cultures (nations/tribes) are equal

2. What is Sin: and where did it come from? (Gen 3:1ff)

- Satan (serpent) & Demons: (Rev 12; 1Ti 3:6; 2Pe 2:4; Mt 4:1ff; 2Co 4:4; Eph 6:10ff; Ac 26:18; cf. Isa 14:12ff; Ezk 28:11ff)
- the Fall of Man (our sin; God's judgment & God's grace)
 - Serpent deceives the woman: she & Adam (who was with her) sin
 - Initial consequences: innocence lost, shame, fear, blame
 - God curses the serpent (Christ's victory/redemption foreshadowed)
 - God punishes the woman (pain in child bearing/in rel. w/ husband)
 - God punishes Adam: listened to his wife/disobeyed God (toil/death)
 - God extends grace: to Eve & Adam (mother all the living; clothed)
 - God banishes man: from the garden (His presence/tree of life)
- Theology & Nature of Sin (*adapted from Kevin J. Vanhoozer)
 - *Symbols/metaphors: error, wandering, sickness, debt
 - *Sin is intensely Spiritual: a power hostile toward God; breaking of God's law; missing the mark; foolish, ignorant, dangerous living; a failure to reflect the image of God (fallen short of God's glory)

- In union with Adam, we're sinners by nature & choice: in bondage to our idolatry, pride, unbelief, rebellion, immorality, oppression, racism, bitterness, murder, jealousy, not living by faith, self-glory
- Total Depravity: sin has corrupted all aspects of our humanity & our world; all of God's very good creation is defiled by/suffering under sin; Only by faith in Christ can we be rescued from God's wrath, reconciled with God & His people; and renewed in God's image.

3. A Summary of the Doctrine of Man & Sin

(EFCA Statement of Faith #3 – “The Human Condition”)

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

4. How then shall “We” live?

- Be on Guard against temptation, sin & the evil one
 - Confess & repent of our sins: don't blame others
 - Follow Christ's example: depend on Spirit's power, word & prayer
- Live Healthy, pray for healing & prepare to die
- Represent God's rule & reflect His glory thru our Christlike relationships with God & one another
 - as Men: obey God's word and protect & build up women (do not neglect, abuse or exploit women/wives or anyone else)
 - as Women: set your hearts on God and honor men (do not dominate, control or seduce men/husbands or anyone else)
 - in Culture & Government: as a prophetic-minority, pray for/obey our leaders; be humble/cross-cultural; serve/defend the oppressed
 - as the Church: embrace God's plan for the family & preach the gospel (proclaim the good news of adoption; welcome sinners into the family of God/local church; and teach/obey biblical marriage)