

We Believe: Article 3 – The Human Condition Sunday: 10/1/2023 – – Pastor Lenard Tavernelli

“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.”

Overview:

This week, Pastor Lenard preached through the 3rd article of our statement of faith; The Human Condition. Pastor Lenard began this sermon with the question “Who are you?” The answer to that question starts with the idea that we are image bearers of God. This fact speaks to human dignity and has numerous implications for our view of ourselves and our view of others. We also learned of our depravity that stems from the fall in the Garden of Eden. Our depravity reflects the problems of our worship of self and rejection of God’s authority. Our depravity stems from these sins and it leads to death. Due to this depravity, we are described as children of wrath who will face our God’s righteous judgement. Our hope is in the deliverance provided by God through Jesus Christ. Our response to this deliverance is to trust and hope in Jesus and his work. We respond to God in thankfulness, with a calling to live a renewed life in Christ, sharing his good news, and making disciples of those who would also trust in him.

Outline:

- Dignity: We are created in God’s image (Genesis 1:26-28)
 - God’s plan
 - God’s pattern
 - God’s purpose
- **BCC Biblical Distinctives:** Human Sexuality - Marriage - Sanctity of Human Life
- Depravity: We are sinful in Adam (Genesis 3:1-7)
- Death: We are alienated from God (Romans 5:12-14)
- Deliverance: We are saved in Christ (Romans 5:15-21)

Discussion Questions

1. In one sense, “The Human Condition” speaks to the beauty of being an image bearer of the God of the universe. In another sense it speaks to our fallen sinful nature. Can you describe the first time you understood your depravity and need for a savior?
2. Pastor Lenard spoke to our being born in sin and not created in sin. Knowing our dignity from Genesis 1 and our depravity from Genesis 3 why is it so important for us to understand the human condition?
 - a. What does it mean to be a “sinner by nature and by choice?”
 - b. How can you describe the human condition to others?
3. Understanding the human condition helps us see our value as image bearers, our own nature, and need for a savior.
 - a. Are there groups of people you struggle to treat with dignity?
 - b. With all men and women being image bearers, especially those who struggle with our distinctives, what do you need to change about how you view and treat these people?
4. Was there anything else that stood out in the sermon?

Article 3 with references: *The Human Condition*

3. We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image (**Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; Col. 3:10; Jms. 3:9**), but they sinned when tempted by Satan (**Gen. 3:1-6; Jn. 8:44; Rom. 5:12-14; 16:20; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:13-14**). In union with Adam (**Job 14:4; Ps. 51:5; Jn. 3:6; Rom. 3:12; 5:12-14; 1 Cor. 15:22a; 1 Jn. 1:8**), human beings are sinners by nature and by choice (**Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Isa. 6:5; Rom. 5:15; 8:5-8; Eph. 2:1-2; 4:17-19**), alienated from God (**Rom. 5:10**), and under His wrath (**Rom. 1:18; 2:5; 3:9-19; 3:23; Eph. 2:3**). Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ (**Act 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5**) can we be rescued (**1 Thess. 1:10**), reconciled (**Rom. 5:1,2,10; Col. 1:20**) and renewed (**Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:24; Phil. 3:21; 1 Jn. 3:2**).

BCC Biblical Distinctives

Human Sexuality

We believe that God created mankind in His own image. In two separate acts, He created only two distinct genders: male and female. We believe God determines the gender of all humans by their physiological sex at the time of birth. All attempts to redefine human sexuality beyond the physiological male/female distinction (whether framed biologically or culturally) and all attempts to change one's birth gender are sinful acts of rebellion against our Creator. As our Creator, God stipulates in His Word that the only legitimate and acceptable sexual desires and sexual acts are those between a man and a woman within the context of marriage.

Marriage

Marriage is a sacred covenant between one man and one woman for life. God intends that the union between two believers be a loving illustration of the relationship between Christ and His church when carried out in obedience to the Bible and through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. Scripture teaches that Christians should only marry Christians, and sex before or outside of marriage is a destructive sin. We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. We believe there are narrowly defined provisions for divorce defined in Scripture in the event of sexual immorality or due to abandonment by an unbelieving spouse.

Sanctity of Human Life

Human beings are made in the image of God and are, therefore, of inestimable worth. God has given people the highest dignity of all creation. Life is a basic gift from a loving God, a gift over which we have stewardship but not absolute dominion. As responsible stewards, we can never intend to cause one's own death or the death of an innocent victim by action or omission. All human life is sacred from fertilization until the final breath.