

Being Human - Adult SS - Lesson 5: Fallen Humanity

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 29 September 2024

Preacher: Andrew Kueh

[0 : 00] Welcome everyone. Before we start, we've got some book recommendations. I'll mention this! to everyone at the end again, but you get a little preview. Two books on the bookstore that! are very relevant to today and to all of Sunday School. First of all is the Westminster Confession of Faith. If you didn't grab a free one last term, you're too late. You've now got to pay a pound for this, but that's pretty cheap. One pound on the bookstall. And remember, this is going to be our guide throughout all of Sunday School. So please do grab one there.

And the other one is Pride. I know this has been mentioned a few times over the past year, but this is going to be really relevant to what we're discussing today about fallen humanity and sin and kind of how to engage with all that's going on in the culture. And so I recommend this. I'll mention this at the end again. Grab pens, handouts, and you'll need a Bible today.

We'll be flicking through a lot of passages today. But before we begin, let me pray. Let's pray for God's, ask for God's help.

Lord God, we thank you that we can freely and openly know you and we can worship you and we can hear from you. We don't need to meet in secret and we don't take that for granted. Thank you for the many freedoms and liberties that we do have. And Lord, we ask for your help today as we consider weighty things of your word, as we consider the sobering realities of who we are, this side of the fall. Lord, please give us humility. Aid us, please, by your spirit and help us to better understand our own hearts and what's going on in this world. And we ask this all for your glory and in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. So let's have a quick recap of some of the stuff we did in the earlier weeks. So we are creatures. We are fundamentally made of dust. And so we are entirely dependent on God for life and breath and everything. But also we are more than just creatures, aren't we?

We are the crown of creation. We're made in God's image, in his likeness. And no other creature is made like that. We're made to reflect and represent God. So we're made in knowledge and righteousness and holiness, meaning we're rational creatures, we're moral creatures, and we're relational creatures.

[2 : 42] And also we are vice regents. We're under kings. We have dominion over creation. And so we are unique and special creatures. We have inherent dignity. We aren't just a bag of cells.

No human life, it's infinitely valuable. And we also saw that we are covenantal creatures. Do you remember that? So every human, every human exists in covenant with God. So no one is not in covenant with God. So we are made for him. We're made to worship him, made to obey his law, love him, follow him, enjoy him, dwell with him. In summary, we're made to worship God. That's in our design, in our blueprint.

And this is how we are to be truly human. This is what it means to be truly fulfilled and flourish and thrive in this life. And so far in this series, we have been following, focusing on the blueprint of how God has designed us. So all of this has been before the fall, hasn't it? How we were originally designed, the purpose and the goodness of it. So at the end of day six, God said, looks at humanity and said, this is very good. And so we've been seeing what it means to be very good, how we should be.

But something has happened since then. The fall has happened. And we naturally now aren't what we are designed to be anymore. We're designed to be with God and know God and love God. Our hearts are made to be directed to God in worship. And we're made to be truly human in our callings as men and women. Images of God in true knowledge and righteousness and holiness. But all that has changed since the fall. And I want us to really see today that something has drastically changed

in us. And I want us to ask, what exactly are we now? How can we understand ourselves now? If we've just been looking at how we were originally and intentionally designed, then what has humanity become now? And to answer that, we need to look at the fall. So if Genesis 1 and 2 is the blueprint of true humanity, what we're designed to be, Genesis 3 is the blueprint of fallen, sinful humanity.

true humanity. And all this is really important to understand. Because if we understand this, we understand our own hearts. We will understand what's going on inside of us every day. And also, it's helpful, necessary for us to understand what's going on in this crazy world all around us. Okay? And our understanding of sin and the fall and fallen humanity, what we are now, when we understand that, it will begin to answer all those questions. And so let's look at the fall.

[5 : 57] The first point I have, the fall, I want to see that we have changed. We have changed. Let's read Genesis 3 together. I want us to read this whole chapter. And really listen as we're reading, because I've got some questions. We're going to break out into groups after this, and we're going to answer questions about this passage. So really keep an eye out for all these details. So Genesis chapter 3, starting with verse 1.

Now, the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, did God actually say, you shall not eat of any tree in the garden?

And the woman said to the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, you shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die. But the serpent said to the woman, you will not surely die, for God knows that when you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. And she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. And the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, where are you?

And he said, I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself. He said, who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat? The man said, the woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me the fruit of the tree, and I ate. Then the Lord God said to the woman, what is this that you have done?

[8 : 06] The woman said, the serpent deceived me, and I ate. The Lord God said to the serpent, because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field. On your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I'll put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. To the woman he said, I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing. In pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you. And to Adam he said, because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, you shall not eat of it. Cursed is the ground because of you. In pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For you are dust, and to dust you shall return. The man called his name, his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skin and clothed them. Then the Lord God said, behold the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now lest he reach out his hand, and take also of the tree of life and eat and live forever. Therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

This is the word of God. Now I want you to break out into groups and think about, answer these questions, I want you to think about how God has originally designed us, all that we've been learning so far, and compare that with what has now changed in that design since the fall. So I've got six questions there for you. Break out into groups and answer them, and then we'll gather in a

to be mirrors reflecting who god is and be an image of who he is you can now think of us we are shattered mirrors or think about you know those bended warped mirrors you can get at like in a house of mirrors in a fun fair and you look at it and it's reflecting something but it doesn't reflect who you are very well at all does it it's all distorted and warped and it's it's a weird version of you that you see well that's like us now we are just this ugly distortion of the image of god and this is why being a sinner is such a tragedy and just so awful because we should be something so

much better we've fallen from such a great height so it's like if i if i just made on a scrap bit of paper now like a little portrait and i showed you and i just scrunpled up and threw it away you wouldn't care right it's just nothing but if i went up to the mona lisa and i tore it and i scrunpled it up screwed it up and i threw it away how do you feel that that would be disgraceful if i did that right well that is why to be a sinner is such a bad thing we have screwed up the mona lisa and so how can we sum up what it means to be a broken image of god's well we now have corrupted natures that's my third sub point we have corrupt nature we have corrupt natures and so this is the language the church in the confession is used so look at these um articles from the westminster confession of faith this is our guide i'll plug this later it's on the bookstall if you need it this is our guide and all that we're doing so 6.2 by this sin the original sin in the garden by this sin adam and eve fell from their original righteousness and design and communion with god and so became changed and became dead in sin and wholly defiled in all parts and faculties of soul and everywhere and then 6.3 they being adam and eve being the root of all mankind the guilt of this sin was imputed remember this word paul's paul's sermons it passed on to us counted to us and this that same death in sin and corrupted nature conveyed passed down to all their posterity their descendants descending from them by ordinary generation ordinary birth and then 6.4 from this original corruption whereby we are utterly indisposed disabled and made opposite to all good and wholly inclined to all evil do precede all actual transgressions all kind of physical out there transgressions so what's this saying we have corrupt natures a human nature so what is human nature a human nature it's just everything about us okay it's all the it it says that all the parts and faculties of soul and body 6.2 so so it's everything about us heart mind body desires thinking everything okay and corrupted it means rotten poisoned ruined so our very being has now become corrupted with sin which means it's not functioning properly it's functioning now in an evil way and that's what we saw in genesis 3 isn't it adam and eve weren't functioning properly but we still are the image of god we still are human with human natures to be human is to be an image of god but we are a corrupted version of that and so we aren't as bad as we possibly could be so just listen to what i'm saying here we aren't as bad as we possibly could be we aren't a hundred percent saturated with evil no it's more like every part of us every thought and desire and ability every kind of compartment everywhere in us it's all been stained and corrupted with sin so it's like if my glass of water here it's water if i got a big dollop of poison and i dropped it in there uh it wouldn't be a hundred percent poison would it right but but the poison would have touched every part of that this water you couldn't taste a little bit this water without tasting poison but it's not a hundred percent poison

but that's like us now there's not a bit of us anywhere that that hasn't been touched and corrupted by sin it's touched every minute part of us and so even the non-christian can still do outwardly good things you know love and be kind give to charity but even then the heart that that comes from is corrupted everywhere even those outwardly good works are tainted with sin and so just while we're here just a side note flip your page on page two just a side note this nature that we have now it's been passed down to us from adam so do you see that in 6.3 they being the root of all mankind the guilt of this sin was imputed and the same death in sin and corrupted nature conveyed passed down to all their posterity all their children and children's children descending from them by ordinary generation ordinary generation which means ordinary birth right giving birth and this is what paul tells us in romans 5 it's all from adam therefore just as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin and so death spread to all men because all sinned we all sinned with adam then and in verse 19 for as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners when adam fell we were made sinners we were changed guilt and death and a corrupt nature was passed down to us adam was representing eve in that moment but he was also representing all of us all of humanity when he sinned so if adam was a pool of water that pool of water was corrupted and poisoned and it all flows down to all the generations after that and it's passed down through ordinary generation ordinary giving birth so when he had children seth and then seth had children and they had children and they had children all the way down to us today all these ordinary births produce sinners a

corrupt nature is passed down from fathers and mothers to their children which has just three implications there which means we are born sinners that's what david says in psalm 51 in sin did my mother conceive me from conception we are sinners we aren't born innocent and then we eventually become sinners no we are born sinners and every parent in the room I think knows this we know how sinful our children can be we never need to teach our children to to snatch or lie or to be disobedient do we we are born with a corrupt nature and also second thing this is why the virgin birth of christ is so significant because jesus was not born by ordinary birth was he he was born by a supernatural virgin birth this means he was not included in adam's sin he was not born with a corrupt nature he was not a broken image he came as the true image of god but third implication this is also why adam must be real adam isn't a mythic made up kind of aesop's fable kind of character no adam is real real real he's historical he walked this earth he breathed this air he actually existed

and he was actually the first man because from him we get this nature from him death occurs and so as real as our sin is that is how real adam is okay that's a side note but let's see something has radically and drastically changed us we are now sinners we're broken images we have a corrupt nature and for this final part i want us just to focus on oh we're running out of time oh for this final part i just want us to focus on something specific i want us to see what is what exactly has changed and become corrupt in us because if everything is corrupt and poisoned with evil that means what our desire that means our desires what we want has become corrupt and so let's see that the fall our desires are corrupt so we've seen how genesis 3 shows how our hearts have changed now let's zoom in on our desires and our hearts you hear of the heart a lot in the bible the heart is the control centre of our being our hearts are especially where our desires come from what we want and so i want you to look up these passages maybe just look up the first three okay look them up and see what has changed in our hearts what's changed with what we naturally want try to be quick and we can get through the rest break out into groups so that's the

Thank you.

[38 : 11] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you. Okay, let's bring it together. Sorry for rushing you guys.

[40 : 22] Okay, Ephesians 4. Who looked at that? Harry Ovi. What's our relationship with God like?

Yep. Yeah.

Yeah. And what are our hearts like? Hardened hearts. Hardened hearts.

of a little connection here you can follow the logic it's like from the hardness of if you read it backwards from the hardness of their hearts they are then alienated from god they're ignorant and alien from god alienated from god and then their minds are darkened in their understanding okay uh what about romans uh eight uh david fels um well uh those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh yeah our minds are completely set on things that are not god right yeah yeah yes exactly exactly so yeah the flesh is it's kind of another term it's for sin the things opposite to god with our minds and our desires you can say all our thinking is now set opposite to god hostile to god and now we we desire uh sinful things and that's what jesus says in mark 7 our hearts have now changed and now it's it's from it it's flowing out all this sin and this is a key key thing to see what it means to be human now that this side of the fall we are naturally opposed to god we naturally don't want him sometimes you might see this illustration this gospel illustration you ever seen this but we're we're on one side of the gap and then god's over here uh and we're trying to get to him aren't we like oh come on come on i just can't but then the cross helps us get there now if you've used this that like that's okay i'm not saying don't do this but but can you see what what's wrong with that illustration are we trying to get to god but we just can't we're not able to do it no we're running in the opposite direction right it's not that um we're opposed to him we hate god the language of ephesians 2 is we're children of wrath and so what we naturally want our desires are corrupt they're broken and unreliable pointing in the wrong direction they're they're evil we naturally desire sinful things now we don't think that they're bad things because our moral compass is all broken but we think they're good things but we tell ourselves they're good things we rationalize it that's why isaiah 5 20 says woe to those who call evil good and good evil but they don't think that it's actually evil but they just think it's actually good and so our thinking is broken too we have this

darkened understanding but we're not thinking straight and so we are naturally corrupt and we can't help this we can't help but desire bad things this is how we are naturally we are designed to naturally desire god but actually what we are now we are naturally desire sin this is how we natural this is our default position and so our desires are stuck and set into this to desire sin and that's why jesus says things like we're slaves to sin that's why paul says that without christ we're enslaved to sin and we're ruled by it and it's a slavery we love uh i'll try and finish in one minute and so this is fundamentally why we can't save ourselves we don't want to we're enslaved to sin and so we need to be united to christ we need our old nature to die to escape this slavery and we need to be raised new and this is why the idea of being true to yourself we hear this all the time is the message of every disney film this is why being true to yourself is such a dangerous idea the heart and our desire is not something to be trusted jeremiah 17 the heart is deceitful above all things and so i hope by now that we can see why this understanding of sin and humanity is so important right now this is the exact opposite of how the world thinks and i want us to think about this maybe this can be homework maybe we can think about this next week i've got two scenarios there but i was quickly touching it this is kind of how the world thinks the church needs to support the lgbtq plus community because i can't help the way i feel i was born this way and so i need to be true to myself can you see already how dangerous that thinking is and why people think this way and why they're so enthusiastically positive about it like this is good for us because our moral compass has flipped and what we now desire is the opposite to good and we think that is now it's evil but we think it's good uh i'm going to stop there sorry for running over time do we have any questions at this point i do want to engage with these maybe think about this for homework and we'll engage it engage with it next next session great uh let me pray lord god we thank you for the salvation that we have in christ thank you for all your goodness and your mercy to a fallen humanity help us to know us and know our world better and in all that to know your grace better we ask this in jesus name amen