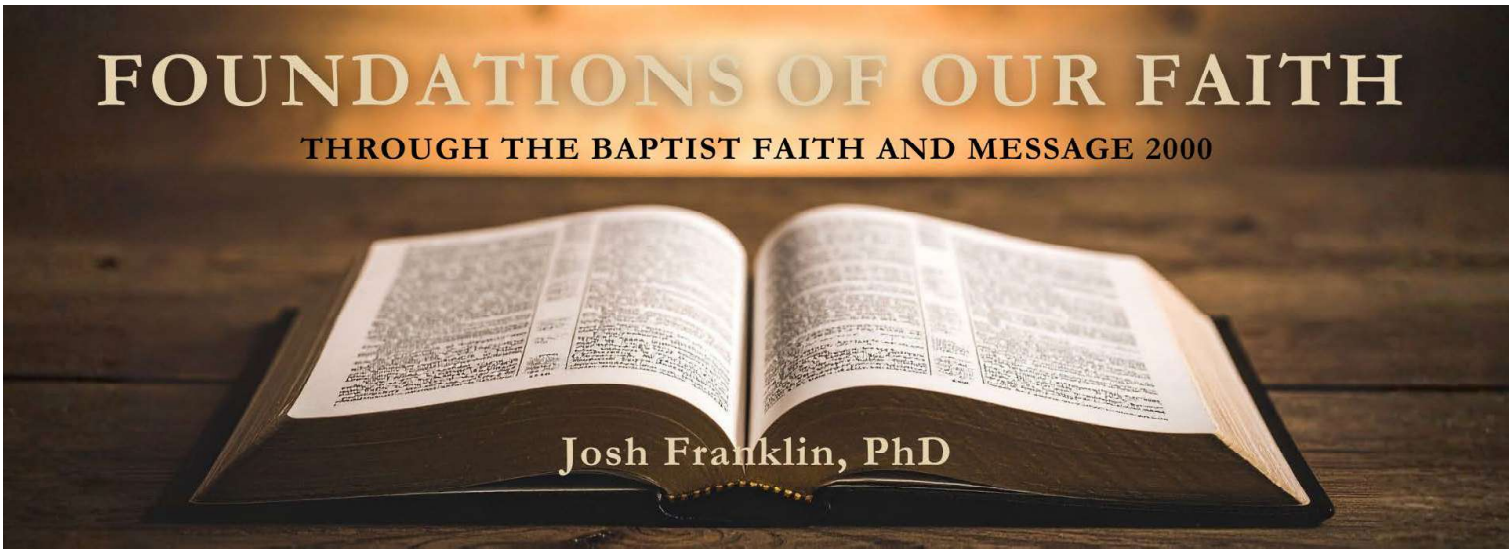


The Crown of God's Creation

Article 3: Man - "Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love."

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

Chuck Kelley writes, "The creation of human beings represents God's crowning act in creation. According to Genesis 2:7, God 'formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.' The biblical view of humanity sets the Christian worldview in direct opposition to current ideologies, such as secular humanism and evolution….The theory of evolution argues that human beings, along with all other living creatures, are simply the products of a blind, naturalistic process of evolutionary development. Thus, humans are distinct from other animals only in terms of brain size or other capacities. By definition evolution has no room for the concept that humans are made in the image of God, for evolutionary theory has no room for God. **The Bible affirms that humans are not accidents or mere animals living among other animals. Human beings alone are made in God's image.**"[1]

In the mind of Moses, the creation of Adam represents the climax of creation:[2]

1) Adam is created last;
2) Adam is presented as the product of divine deliberation;
3) The description of the creation of Adam is more intensive and extensive than any aspect of creation;
4) The account uses a special verb to describe the creation of Adam, which always involves a special creative act of God;
5) Once Adam is on the scene the Lord can pronounce the created world "extremely good" (1:31);
6) Adam is expressly created in "the image of God."

[1] Charles Kelley, Richard Land and Al Mohler, *The Baptist Faith and Message (Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 2007), 60.*
[2] From Daniel Akin, "Man" audio lecture, danielakin.com.

I. God's Special Creation of Man

Genesis 1:26–27 – [26]Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, 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.

Psalm 8:4–6 - [4]What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? [5]For **You have made him a little lower than the angels**[3], And You have crowned him with glory and honor. [6]You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.

ESV – "Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings…"
ISV – "You made him a little less than divine…"
NASB95 – "Yet You have made him a little lower than God…"
NLT – "Yet you made them only a little lower than God…"

- Men and women are created in God's image
- God created male and female
- Man is the crown of creation
- In Eden, Adam and Eve were innocent without sin (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7).
- God endowed man with free will and the ability to make moral choices (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7).

II. The Fall and its Consequences

- Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:1-7)
- Humanity fell into sin and condemnation (Romans 5:12, 19)
- People inherit a sinful nature inclined toward sin (Psalm 51:5).
- Sin brought sickness, death, and hardship (Genesis 3:17-19).

III. Restoration through Christ

- People are spiritually helpless and dependent on God (Romans 5:6).
- Fellowship with God is restored through faith in Christ (Romans 5:8-11).
- Christ's work of salvation includes men and women from every tribe, race, language, and people group: "You redeemed people for God by Your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Rev. 5:9).

Practical Applications:

1. Because all mankind was made in the image of God, both male and female have equal value and worth, and each ethnicity has equal value and worth (Acts 17:26-28; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:13-15).
2. Because human life begins at conception, and those babies are made in the image of God, they should be given the same chance to live that each of us have had. Christians should be unashamedly pro-life, from the womb to the end of life (Psalm 139:13-16; Luke 1:15, 41, 44; Exodus 20:13; Proverbs 31:8).
3. Because we bear God's image, we belong to God. Jesus said, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and give to God what is God's" (Matthew 22:19-21).
4. Because sin has broken everyone's fellowship with God, salvation through Jesus Christ is the only way to restore that fellowship. Every person needs the gospel (Romans 10:9-10, 13).

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[3] Hebrew *Elohim = God.*