

## **ANTHROPOLOGY AND HAMARTIOLOGY:**

### ***Class Summary***

A Study for Bible Institute of Gulf Coast Baptist Church - Spring 2026

#### **Introduction**

This course has provided a basic biblical understanding of two important topics, man and sin. “Where did I come from? Why am I here?”, are questions mankind has been asking about itself for centuries. God has provided answers to those questions about man and more in the Bible. Our study of Genesis chapters one through three demonstrated that the world we live in now is vastly different than what life was like “in the beginning”. If everything was “very good” when God spoke this physical universe into existence, why is there such selfishness, deceit, violence, brutality, and ugliness in the world today? As we discovered, the answer to that question is sin. While God did not create this world with sin in it, it nevertheless entered in and became a hindrance to God’s intentions for mankind. Thankfully, God designed a plan to remedy this even before He created the physical universe. Today the disparity between God’s glory and man’s sinful depravity is on full display.

#### **In the Beginning...**

The Bible’s opening sentence attributes the creation of the Heavens and the Earth to God. While the scriptures do not inform us when He created the Spirit beings, they do teach that God spoke all creation into existence in six literal days. The believer should not feel the need to synthesize the normal reading of scripture to fit the claims of modern science. God’s Word is often at odds with man’s wisdom. Genesis informs us that man was created in the image and likeness of God. While Bible commentators are not in complete agreement on the exact meaning of these terms, it is obvious that when God created man He created him so that he shared similarities with the Creator. Man was also made a three-part being consisting of spirit, soul, and body. The spirit of man relates to his ability to think logically and to reason, the soul translates the information received from the five senses and involves emotional responses, and the physical body serves as a home for the spirit and soul and makes use of the five senses as one lives in this world.

#### **And Then There Was Sin...**

Unbeknownst to the first couple as they were enjoying the splendors of the Garden of Eden was the fact that Satan, God’s adversary, was lurking about seeking an opportunity to upend God’s plans for mankind. Satan, who before an act of rebellion was known as Lucifer, twisted God’s Words and spun a lie to Eve. Scripture states that Eve was thoroughly deceived by Satan and that she trespassed when she ate the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Not so for Adam as he knew full well that eating the fruit was in rebellion to God’s command. Adam made the deliberate choice to follow Eve instead of trusting God.

### **“In That Day...”**

Following Adam’s sin, man was either no longer in God’s image or it was horrifically disfigured. Adam and Eve’s progeny no longer possessed God’s image and instead took on the image of their fallen father. Mankind still retained God’s likeness and can still therefore reason in the realm of their spirit and soul. The Fall of man also resulted in man dying both physically and spiritually. Physical decay and alienation from God began immediately and have continued for centuries. The Fall twisted and contorted man’s nature into an almost unrecognizable figure. Man’s now sinful nature demanded that God bring judgment upon His creation. These judgments will take place at the Judgment of the Goats and Sheep at Christ’s return and the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Millennial Kingdom. While sin necessitated judgment, God had previously determined to intervene on man’s behalf by sending His Son to die for man’s sin. As a result of the Son’s crosswork, the believer in Christ is in no danger of judgment for sin.

### **Unrighteousness**

Both Testaments given evidence that God is uniquely set apart from His creation in that He is incapable of sinning, and not only that but He cannot even be tempted by sin. The term righteousness describes the truth that God always does what is right. Any individual is offensive to God when they fail to measure up to His standard of holiness. Therefore anything that falls short of this is deemed unrighteous. The scriptures use many words to describe unrighteous behavior, all of which is offensive to God. While there is much that offends God not everything rises to the level of sin. John defines sin as “no law” or any activity stemming from the attitude that God has no authority in one’s life. The word translated “sin” communicates the idea of a deliberate missing of the mark. God has defined sinful activity differently during different dispensations. This is most obvious in the discrepancies between dietary restrictions for Jews under Law and the Church’s menu. Paul stated that Christians sin when their actions are not out from faith but that was never a condition under Law. The Christian possesses three spiritual enemies that continuously tempt him to sin. These enemies are Satan, the World, and the Sin Nature. Thankfully, God has provided a means for defending against each of these enemies.

### **Holy Spirit vs. Conscience**

In the Upper Room, Jesus gave his disciples a glimpse of the coming ministry of the Holy Spirit. He stated that the Spirit would convince the lost world of sin, righteousness, and judgment to come. It is the Spirit’s work to draw unbelievers to the truth concerning the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus also stated that the Holy Spirit would have a ministry to those that believed on Him, this ministry of the Spirit was further explained by the Apostles and New Testament prophets. The Spirit illuminates, teaches, leads, and reminds believers. He also conforms believers into the character of the Son and produces fruit (characteristics of Christ).

Believers can often be plagued by uncomfortable feelings when they participate in questionable activities. These feelings are often the result of their conscience. The conscience is part of man’s makeup which serves as an internal regulator of behavior

by weighing one's "knowledge" of right and wrong with their actions. The conscience accuses and excuses, it can be good, bad, or pure, as well as weak, strong, or even seared. One's conscience is only as good as how accurately they are informed about right and wrong by the Bible. Because Christians are often misinformed or ignorant of who God is and His promises to them, their conscience is often misguided.

### **How to Deal With Sin**

As previously mentioned, Christ's crosswork satisfied God's righteous demands for judgment to all those who believe. But while the believer in Christ never needs to fear future punishment for their sins, their present sin can disrupt their ability to enjoy their relationship with God. Paul states that God's grace "child-trains" the believer to say, "NO!", to unrighteous behavior so that they are not judged with the world. If the believer does choose to disobey God they are to confess, or agree with God about it. The way for the sinning believer to enjoy restored fellowship with God is to own their sin and tell God about it. Confession also serves to cleanse the believer of all the unrighteous thoughts and attitudes that led up to that sin. If a Christian chooses not to address their sin, God promises that He will "child-train" through correction to bring them to a place of a change of repentance.