

**The Glorious Gospel**  
**Part 2: Humanity**  
**Providence Baptist Church**  
**June 15, 2025**

“It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of the doctrine of man.” – Anthony Hoekema

**I. Introduction**

- A. The world does not see the grandeur or the tragedy of humanity . . .
  - 1. What is a man? Woman?
  - 2. Why do we exist?
  - 3. What is our great problem?
- B. Confusion in the church and the need to re-establish a biblical understanding of humanity in all its grandeur and tragedy

**II. “Head and Crown of the Entire Creation”**

- A. **Genesis 1:26–31** Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and 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. [28] And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” [29] And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. [30] And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. [31] And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.
  - 1. Humanity in the “image and likeness” of God (**vv. 26–27**)
  - 2. We are “like” God and “represent” God (what an honor!)
- B. **Psalms 8:3–9** When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, [4] what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? [5] Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. [6] You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, [7] all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, [8] the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. [9] O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
  - 1. God’s majesty is seen in the “glory and honor” of his image as reflected in humanity.
  - 2. True humanity is seen most clearly in the God-man Jesus Christ
    - a. **John 1:14** “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

- b. **Colossians 1:15** “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”
- c. **Hebrews 1:3** “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”

### III. Humanity’s Fall: Glorious Ruins

#### A. Genesis 3 and “Cosmic Treason”

1. What does it mean to commit treason?
  - a. Merriam-Webster: 1 : the offense of attempting by overt acts to overthrow the government of the state to which the offender owes allegiance or to kill or personally injure the sovereign or the sovereign's family; 2 : the betrayal of a trust : treachery
  - b. The biblical doctrine of sin describes our rebellion against *the* Sovereign.
  - c. Whatever happened to sin? How does the world and much of the church think about sin (if it thinks about it at all)?
2. We rejected God’s rule and reign in a futile effort to be our own gods.
  - a. **Isaiah 53:6** “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
  - b. **Romans 3:23** “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
  - c. **The Baptist Catechism** (Benjamin Keach/1693): Question 18: What is sin? Answer: Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God (1 John 3:4; Rom. 5:13).

#### B. Glorious Ruins (‘glorious’ because we still retain the image of God; ‘ruins’ because the image is radically shattered)

1. [ruins] **Romans 3:10–18** as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”
2. [glorious] **James 3:7–10** “For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are *made in the likeness of God*. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.”

#### C. There will be a universal accounting before God . . . the King will judge the earth

1. **Matthew 10:28** “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”
2. **2 Corinthians 5:10** “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”
3. **Hebrews 9:27** “. . . it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment”

### IV. Our Confessional Heritage on the Coming Judgment

- A. The Apostles' Creed
- B. The Nicene Creed
- C. The Belgic Confession (Article 37)
- D. The London Baptist Confession (1689/Article 32.1)

### Study Questions

1. What did God create on the sixth day? What is unique about the creation of man and woman that sets us apart from all other created things? (see Genesis 1:26–31; Psalm 8:3–9)
2. How do we know what the image of God is? Where would we look to see it?
3. What is sin? What does it mean to consider ourselves, since the fall, “glorious ruins”?
4. When Jesus comes again, what will he do? How does of confessional heritage speak of the second coming of Christ?

### Day of Judgment! Day of Wonders! John Newton (1774)

Day of judgment! Day of wonders!  
Hark! the trumpet's awful sound,  
louder than a thousand thunders,  
shakes the vast creation round.  
How the summons  
will the sinner's heart confound!

See the Judge, our nature wearing,  
clothed in majesty divine;  
you who long for his appearing  
then shall say, "This God is mine!"  
Gracious Savior,  
own me in that day as thine.

At his call the dead awaken,  
rise to life from earth and sea;  
all the pow'rs of nature, shaken  
by his looks, prepare to flee.  
Careless sinner,  
what will then become of thee?

But to those who have confessed,  
loved and served the Lord below,  
he will say, "Come near, ye blessed,  
see the kingdom I bestow;  
you forever  
shall my love and glory know."