

## “So, What Do YOU Believe about...Man and Sin?”

with Pastor Joel McQueen

*We believe that man was created in the image of God. Being tempted by Satan, man sinned and was cast out of the Garden of Eden, thus infecting the entire human race with sin, resulting in our being separated from a holy and just God. (Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 3:1-19, Romans 5:12, Isaiah 59:2)*

### A RECAP

Worldview = the biggest questions of life. How you answer these questions determines how you see everything else.

We started with the Bible = Our ultimate authority for Truth.

We then asked: Who is God? Three weeks of the Trinity ... Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” – A.W. Tozer in The Pursuit of God*

### INTRODUCTION

Two major interrelated questions today: Who are we, as mankind? What’s wrong with our world?

Modern Example: The Dark Knight

Joker’s worldview = people are basically evil

Batman’s worldview = people are basically good

What does the Bible teach? What do we believe about man and sin?

Do we agree with Batman or the Joker?

### MAN WAS CREATED GOOD...IN GOD’S IMAGE

Genesis 1. In Hebrew repetition equals emphasis. God created ... it was good!

*Genesis 1:26-27*

*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. So God created man **in his own image, in the image of God** he created him; male and female he created them.*

The Imago Dei “Image of God” means at the very least:

We were created for intimate relationship with God, to be like Him, to accurately reflect who God is - the Living God.

God created male and female. God created marriage between a man and a wife. God created families to be the vehicle by which knowledge of Him would spread over the whole earth.

### IMAGE OF GOD

Within marriage, between a man and a wife, you have two distinct persons who are alike (both human) but different (male and female) who become one flesh and create life in their own image = picture (image) of God who is one being (God) but three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) who create life in their own image (mankind).

**This work is ultimately fulfilled through Christ’s sacrifice on behalf of the church!** (See *Ephesians 5:22-33*)

In the Bible, the major sin is idolatry – and idolatry leads to sexual perversion. (See *Exodus 20:3-4. cf. Romans 1; Ephesians 5!*)

### SO MANKIND IS...

Created to perfectly reflect and spread who God is – all over the earth. Created to glorify God!

## Implications:

There is something different and special about man, that is not the case with the rest of creation! *Men and monkeys are not equal.*

Man was created Good. Man was created to be like God. Man was created to glorify God. (So it looks like we agree with Batman.)

But WAIT, “Jeepers, creepers, Batman!”

Something went horribly wrong.

## **BUT HUMANS ARE...SINNERS**

What’s wrong with our world? WE ARE! We ALL are THE PROBLEM.

Genesis 3:1-19

Adam (who stands as a representative, is the father of all humankind) SINS and the result is that Death enters the world.

From that point on...people, by nature, from birth, are sinners which means we reject God, hide from Him, make ourselves His enemies, separate from Him...and spread DEATH (rather than knowledge of God) all over the World.

*Romans 3:9-20*

*“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...”*

*“All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God...”*

## **WAIT, THERE’S GOOD NEWS!**

Some of the most powerful words in Scripture are: BUT GOD ...

God being rich in mercy... (*Ephesians 2:4*). God so loved the world (the rebellious, evil, little death spreaders)... (*John 3:16*).

You can believe in Jesus and be reborn, be renewed. You can run from your sin and to God, and to relationship with Him.

Christianity isn’t about behavior modification; it’s about wicked, dead, helpless sinners, by the grace of God, through faith in Jesus Christ — being born again into a new family and called:

Children of God. (*See John 1:12*)

Holy ones – saints. (*See 1 Corinthians 1:2*)

Beloved – Christ’s perfect, spotless Bride. (*See Ephesians 5:25-27*)

New Creation. (*See 2 Corinthians 5:17*)

Free from Condemnation. (*See Romans 8:1*)

Being transformed into the image of Christ (who is the perfect image of God). (*See Hebrews 1:3; 2 Corinthians 3:18*)

Spreading knowledge of God all over the earth (*See Habukkak 2:14; Matthew 28:18-20*)

Christianity is about **identity change**.

## **A CHALLENGE**

Repent!

Deal with sin.

Come to the Father, who loves you, who runs out to you, who never left you!

Stop hiding. Stop pretending.

Repent!

## **NOTES:**

