

## The Doctrine of Man

To have a right view of God, we must also have a right view of humanity in the way God created us: men and women. Today's world often gets two truths wrong. First, we think we are "OK," and that there is nothing really wrong with the human race. We are not fallen. Others will suggest that we are not special, but are only a different order of animal that was evolved to a higher level and there is nothing inherently dignified about being a human. Both views are profound errors. We can only understand our need for God by understanding our hopeless fallenness. We can only appreciate God's grace, love and mercy if we understand the majesty of being made in His image.

### **BRBC Doctrinal Statement on Man:**

MAN: Man was created in the image of God with the spiritual purpose and ability to glorify God. Man possesses a body, soul, and spirit. Every man will exist eternally, either in everlasting life or in eternal punishment. (Genesis 1:27; 9:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Revelation 20:11-15; Matthew 25:46)

Believing the entire Bible to be the infallible and inerrant Word of God, we believe the account of the creation and fall of Adam and Eve recorded in Genesis to be literally true. (Genesis 1:1-3:24)

All men were "in Adam" when he sinned. Therefore, sin is imputed to all men and every man is born with a sin nature. (Romans 5:12; 3:23)

Man is totally depraved, that is he is incapable of any work which will release him from the bondage or penalty of sin. Left to himself, man will never seek after God. (Ephesians 2:1; Romans 7:14-20; Ephesians 2:8-9)

However, despite his fallen nature, man's worth is not to be taken lightly for it was for fallen sinful men that Jesus Christ gave His own life. (John 3:16-17; Romans 5:15)

Only through salvation may man participate in the divine nature and escape corruption in the world caused by evil desires. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Colossians 3:1-4; John 3:15)