

Laying the Foundations

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Section One: What Is A 'Christian'?

The purpose of this Section One is to help a person who has accepted Jesus as Savior come to a greater understanding of what happened the moment he or she was born again. Understanding the change that took place is vital to living in the fullness of what we have received from God through Jesus.



Section One – Part One

...And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. (Acts 11:26)

People are told that they need to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. They are told that His blood will wash all their sin away and that they will go to Heaven. But why is this necessary? What has happened to cause a person to need Jesus?

GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN

And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (Gen 1:26-27)

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Gen 2:7)

God wanted man to be in His _____. The word 'image' comes from the Hebrew word 'tselem' and it means, '_____.' God also wanted man to be in His _____. The word 'likeness' comes from the Hebrew word 'd'muth' and it means, '_____.' Additionally, God '_____' into man His own _____.

In plain talk, this means that God desired man to "_____" _____ "Himself. This should not be interpreted to mean that God and humans look exactly _____. It should also not be interpreted that humans

_____. When God first created man he existed in a _____ (Gen 1:31-2:1).

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (Gen 1:28)

What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: (Psa 8:4-6)

God's plan included His desire that man have _____ over _____. He _____. God gave this authority by _____. Nowhere is it recorded in scripture that God _____ from man. It was given in Genesis on the _____ and remains in effect today.

God also expected man to _____ the earth. This is evidenced by His command to '*Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.*' The word '_____' comes from the Hebrew word 'male' which means 'to fill, be filled, fulfilled; to complete an unfinished task' (Important note: due to the _____ of the _____ in Genesis chapter one, it is _____ for the word male/replenish to mean '_____'). God wanted more than just one man and one woman to live on the earth. But He gave that _____ to Adam and Eve. This is why Gen 1:28 implies an _____ task: God _____ his work (Gen 1:31-2:1) but the job He gave to man (_____) was unfinished; it had only begun.

Since Adam and Eve had God's _____, the _____ they produced would have had that same life and nature. God passed His life on to man and man was to _____ to all his children. Thus, according to God's original plan, the earth was to be _____ by people having the life and nature of God.

[Read Matt 6:10] Man was to use his God-ordained authority to _____. This was to be done according to _____.

_____. Just as God's will is accomplished in Heaven, His will was to be accomplished on earth _____. This was possible because man had God's _____.

The created universe was to be a _____ of what existed in God's presence before creation. The two were to _____ in perfect harmony _____. Just as there is no _____ or _____ in Heaven, there was to be _____ in the created universe. God had no desire for His plan to ever be _____.

GOD'S PLAN CORRUPTED

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. (Gen 2:16-17)

[Read Gen 3:1-7]

God and man _____: God in Heaven and man on earth. Man had the _____ to do whatever he wanted. His _____ were very simple: do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. However, man _____ God's instructions and he ate the 'forbidden fruit' from the 'forbidden tree.'

The reason man could do this is because God gave man _____. This means that people can choose to do whatever they want and God _____ them. Once God _____ over creation to man and gave him _____ He did not _____ that decision, even though man used his free will to _____ God. Mankind _____ free will. This is why people are encouraged to accept Jesus as Savior. If people did not have free will they would not have to receive Jesus, He would be _____ on them.

When Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit they _____ just as God had warned. First, they died _____. This is because their origin was God and God is a spirit

(John 4:24). Second, they died _____. This is because their _____ of life was spiritual in that it came from God. Once they had experienced _____, their _____ began dying. Adam lived a total of _____ (Gen 5:5) before his body finally succumbed to the effects of _____.

[Read Rom 5:12]

Since Adam and Eve were now _____, they could no longer pass the _____ to their children. This means that all of their children would be born with _____, or, a _____. Then, when Adam and Eve's children had children they, too, would be born with a sin nature. _____ is not what _____ a person to be a _____. Being _____ with a _____ is what causes a person to be a sinner.

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; (Gen 3:17-18)

For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

(Rom 8:20-22)

The words '_____' and '_____' both come from the Greek word 'ktisis' which means 'creation, what has been created, the sum total of what has been created.' Not only did the spiritual death produce _____ and death in Adam's own _____, but it also corrupted all of creation. The reason this happened is because God had placed creation in _____; therefore, when Adam sinned the _____ of that sin impacted _____ God had created.

Man was originally a _____ (Gen 1:29; he did not start _____ until after 'Noah's Flood,' Gen 9:2-3); but due to the corruption of death, _____ that weren't meant to be _____ became harmful or lethal. Animals became _____. Nature itself eventually became _____ (_____, deadly _____ and _____, _____, devastating _____, etc).

Because of Adam's _____, the very essence of all that exists in creation is _____ from what God produced in Genesis One. Ever since Adam's sin, there has _____ been a human alive (other than Jesus) who knows what it is like to be brought into this world with God's life and nature; neither has there been a human alive who knows what it is like to _____. Also, _____ has ever been able to _____ the in-born sin nature. Without some form of _____ the sin nature will remain in people to their death.

Section One – Part Two

THE "CHALLENGE" BEFORE GOD

Because of Adam's _____, man no longer had God's _____.
_____. God is _____ (_____) and therefore had
within Him the power and ability to _____ what Adam had done. Immediately after
Adam sinned, God could have _____ the _____ and given back to
man God's "_____."

However, God had already rendered to man _____ over creation.
Therefore, God could not arbitrarily move into "_____" to change his
spiritual condition. Since a _____ had introduced _____ to both himself and creation, it
had to be a _____ to do what was necessary to bring about change.

The reason for this is because authority in the _____ is exercised _____
the natural. God created a _____ for _____. It is in and
through the natural body that spiritual man exercises authority in creation. But because of
Adam's sin, man now had _____ instead of _____. The only
way things could change is if a man with _____ could come into existence
on the earth to do whatever necessary to bring about such a change.

Here, then, was the "challenge" facing God: Adam and Eve had a sin nature. All of their
_____ would have a sin nature, passed down from Adam. Each _____
_____ would likewise have the sin nature. Thus, God could not work through a
_____ of Adam to _____ man because all of Adam's descendants
would have a sin nature. God would have to get _____ into the earth with His
_____ and _____.

But since all of _____ was under man's authority and _____
because of Adam's sin, God could not simply _____ out of the _____

of the _____. He would have to do something _____: He would have to somehow get man's _____ in order to get a "_____" into the world.

[Read Gen 3:14-15]

God foretold that such a thing would take place. In fact, He already had a plan in place _____ ***[Read Rev 13:8]***. Not only did God indicate in Genesis Three what was coming, He spoke through several _____ throughout the _____ about the coming Savior. ***[Read Isa 7:14; 9:6-7; 53:1-12]***.

These prophecies were fulfilled when Jesus was born. ***[Read Luke 1:26-38]***. Therefore, not only did God find prophets who would _____ with Him in declaring His will for a coming Redeemer, He was able to actually see His Son born into the world through the _____ of Mary to be a part of God's will being fulfilled. Mary, as a _____ with God-ordained _____ in the natural, used her authority in _____ with God's power so that Jesus could be born. God finally had another man on the earth with His life and nature.

GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION

God's _____ plan was for the earth to be filled with people who had the _____ as God. God is _____ and _____ and there is no _____ in His nature. Therefore, people with God's life and nature _____ have sin in their nature. When Adam sinned, it introduced the _____ to humanity. The sin nature is the _____ of God's life and nature. As long as a person has the sin nature, he or she lives in a way that does not line up with God's original intent.

God's plan of redemption included more than just _____. Forgiving man for _____ of _____ would not change his nature. God wanted man both _____ for acts of sin and _____ from the sin nature. In other words, in Adam man has _____

from God's "life nature" to the sin nature; in Jesus, man could pass from the sin nature back to God's life nature.

[Read Gen 3:6-7]

Adam had been warned that he would _____ if he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That death was first spiritual and then physical. When he sinned, he lost the "_____" and "_____" that God's life and nature in him provided. God supplied another "_____" for Adam and Eve ***[Read Gen 3:21]***. This is the _____ in scripture of any kind of _____ (in this case, _____ death). It is also the first time _____, _____ and death are connected to a person's sin.

Throughout the Old Testament people were commanded by God to sacrifice animals as an _____ for their sin. In the Old Testament the word 'atonement' comes from the Hebrew word 'kaphar' (to _____, expiate, make reconciliation, placate, to _____), and in the New Testament it comes from the Greek word 'katallage' (to _____, restoration, _____). This means that the death and shedding of animal blood was a _____ for the _____ and _____ of people who had committed an act of sin. Through the blood and death of the animal people were able to have a "_____" with God, but they still had the sin nature.

Just as man had to offer an animal sacrifice, God offered a sacrifice ***[Read John 1:29]***. Through Jesus all of humanity could have both _____ for the acts of sin and _____ from the sin nature. Jesus shed His blood and died on the cross to be our sacrifice for sin.

[Read Rom 5:10-11] Just as our sin nature had _____ us from God, the shed blood and death of Jesus enabled us to be reconciled to God. The word 'reconciled' comes from the Greek word katallasso and means 'a change' or, in this passage, 'a change in man whereby he no longer stands in danger of the _____ of God for sin.'

[Read Heb 9:11-14 & 10:4; Rev 5:9] The shed blood death of Jesus was able to accomplish what the blood and death of animals could not. We had been _____ from God but are now _____ into a _____ with Him.

[Read 1 John 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19] Jesus had God's life and nature. He did not have a sin nature and He did not commit sin. His _____ qualified Him to be the acceptable sacrifice for all of mankind. When a person accepts Jesus as Savior, God's plan of redemption is "performed" in that person. He or she is totally and completely forgiven for all acts of sin and the sin nature is replaced with God's life and nature. People who have been redeemed have in them the same life and nature that Adam had before he sinned and that Jesus had here on earth and has forever in Heaven.