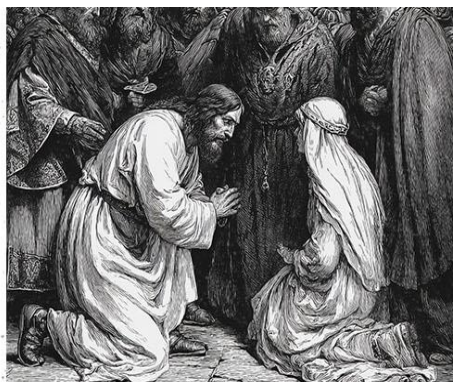
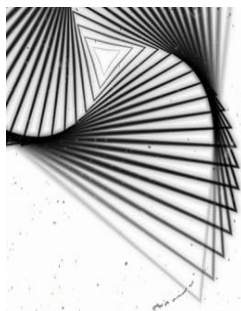
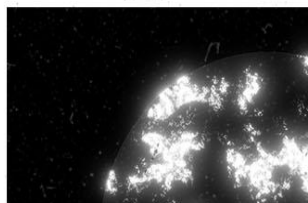
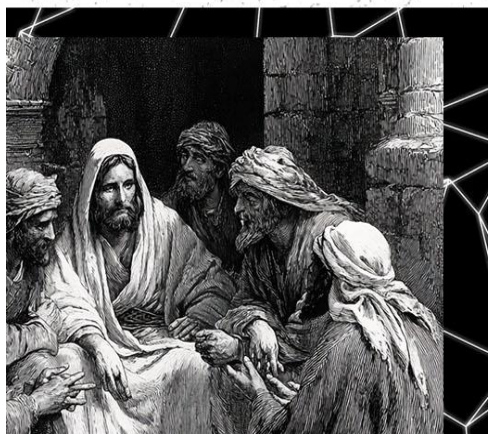




12

GOSPEL-CENTERED FOUNDATIONS

Wk 4



Of MAN and SIN

4

as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God.

Rom 3:10-11 (ESV)

Intro

Check out the introduction video from Pastor Dave at:

www.templebiblechurch.org/studyfall25/

Overview

In this session, we will look at the nature of mankind and our situation as a result of the Fall. We will discuss what it means to be “dead in sin” and the hopelessness we have apart from God’s grace and the work of Christ.

Warming Up

- Read Article II Sections 6 & 7 from the TBC Constitution for our statement of belief regarding the nature of Man and Sin.
- Setting aside God’s perfect standard of thinking and behavior for the moment, do you feel like you live up to your own standard 100% of the time? In what areas of your life is it hardest for you to do so?
- Was there anything in this week’s sermon that you have questions about or thought was particularly interesting?

Wk 4 Case Study

In week 2 of this study, you had a conversation with a member of your group (Cindy) regarding whether all religions worshipped the same God. As part of your conversation, you learned that one reason Cindy does not seem to view Christianity as the only way to God the Father is because she does not think people are in need of saving because they are all generally good, even though they may occasionally do bad things. She has seen non-Christians demonstrate as much kindness and generosity as the Christians she knows. She believes people are born innocent and basically good.

- The previously mentioned 2025 survey of evangelical Christians revealed nearly 2/3rds generally agreed with the view that people are mostly good by nature, and 3/4th agreed that everyone is born innocent. So, how would you respond to Cindy?

Helpful Definitions:

Sin – Anything in thought, word, or deed that transgresses God’s law or righteousness either by commission or omission. One of the most common concepts stressed by the words translated as “sin” is the idea of a “missing of the mark” of God’s perfection.

The Fall – The disobedience of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden that plunged all of mankind into a state of sin and corruption.

Original Sin – The term for the guilt and sinful nature that all mankind carries from birth as a direct result of Adam’s Fall in the garden.

Total Depravity – A theological term for the fact that every part of our being is affected by the fall and sin. Our mind, body, and wills have all been affected. Our very nature is sinful from birth. The idea is that we are not sinners because we sin, but rather we sin because we are sinners.

For Study & Discussion

- 1) Look up the following verses and discuss what you learn about the nature and extent of mankind's moral and spiritual condition.

Genesis 8:21

Psalm 51:5

Romans 3:9-12

Romans 3:23

Ephesians 2:1-3

Titus 1:15-16

- How would you summarize lost mankind's situation before God?
- The Bible at times uses the language of "dead in sin". What does this mean?
- In what sense do you believe that unbelievers can "do good"? In what sense do you believe it is impossible for them to "do good"?

- Does the Bible's presentation of the sinfulness of mankind seem harsh or unfair to you? Why or why not?

2) Look up the following verses and discuss what you learn about fallen man's desire and ability to respond to and please God.

John 6:44

John 6:63-65

Romans 8:6-8

2 Corinthians 4:4-6

- Does anything you have seen in these verses contradict what you have thought about someone's ability to respond to hearing the gospel message? Elaborate.
- Do you see a dilemma with man's ability to come to Christ or respond to the gospel as presented in these verses? How do you resolve the dilemma?

For Deeper Reflection

- 1) How do you feel the sinfulness of mankind impacts capitalist economic systems? How about socialist systems? Are both impacted the same way? Why or why not?

- 2) Why do you think it is so common in the culture to view people as generally inherently good? What are the standards that culture applies? How do they differ from God's perspective?

- 3) In addition to the very helpful systematic theology resources mentioned in the introduction to this series, below are a couple resources related to the topic in this section that are good options for learning more.
 - Lutzer, Erwin. *God's Devil* (Moody, 2015).
 - Murray, John. *The Imputation of Adam's Sin* (P&R, 1992).

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