



FIRST BAPTIST of Hayden

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**The Baptist Faith and Message
Man**

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Preface

The answer to every societal issue that we are currently dealing with can be found in the first chapters of the book of Genesis – the origin of humanity, the reason for evil in the world, the male/ female debate, toxic masculinity, feminism, homosexuality, transgenderism, marriage and the purpose of marriage. Every issue we face is a man-made part of the curse of our fall from God's favor.

We rebelled and now we blame God, ignore God, or we hold him in derision because of all the mess we deal with. Tonight, I want us to look at humanity as we are and as God sees us.

So, let us review the Third article of our Baptist Faith and Message (BFM); Man.

Our Baptist Distinctives:

3. Man

BFM: Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

A. The creation of Man

The creation story opens as God creates Time – Space – Matter.

Genesis 1:1 (ESV): *1 In the beginning (time), God created the heavens (space) and the earth (matter).*

Creation belongs to God to do with as he pleases, and within the act of creation, the nature of God is revealed – Powerful, creative, orderly, and eternal.

Psalm 90:2 (ESV): 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

While God has always existed outside of time and space, it is in creation that he created something apart from himself that is also an expression of his nature and desire. As Moses wrote this book, he makes no attempt to defend or prove the existence of God. He merely sets forth the declaration that at the beginning of all that is, God was there creating. All of creation, while being separate from God is also connected to God.

As Moses begins the creation narrative, he provides a summary description of the historical narrative of the days of creation. Day 1: light, and the separation of darkness and light. Day 2: the division of the waters, and the addition of an expanse to separate the upper waters from the lower waters. Day 3: division of the water from the land and the appearance of dry land, the creation of seas and land, and the growth of vegetation, fruit trees, and seed-bearing plants. Day 4: the establishment of recorded time and seasons through the creation of the sun and moon. Day 5: life within the seas and oceans begins to teem, to swarm, and winged fowl begin to fly across the expanse of the sky.

Additionally, there is God's blessing and command to be fruitful and multiply and to fill the seas and the sky. Day 6: the creation of land-based animals, including the highest of all his creations, man.

Genesis 1:26 (ESV): 26 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."

Man was created in God's image and likeness to rule creation. This defines man's unique relationship to God. *"In his rational life, he was like God in that he could reason and had intellect, will, and emotion. In the moral sense, he was like God because he was good and sinless."*

MacArthur, John F., Jr. *The MacArthur Study Bible: New American Standard Bible*. Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2006, p. Ge 1:26.

Man was the highest of the creation, in that he was like God. While all of God's great creation was good, something was lacking. However, that is not mentioned by Moses yet. Instead, he points to what is already observable within humanity as he writes.

B. The distinction of Men and Women

Man is both male and female!

Genesis 1:27 (ESV): 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

This passage makes a significant point; both men and women share the image of God.

We have the image of God stamped into our very nature. By our decision, sin has corrupted it, sin has minimized it and twisted it in a way that is not recognizable, but his image is there. Jesus dealt with this when he lived on the earth.

When confronted by the Herodians with the question, “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?” Jesus answered,

Mark 12:15–17 (ESV): 15 But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” 16 And they brought one. And he said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to him, “Caesar’s.” 17 Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they marveled at him.

In reality, we bear the inscription, the image of God upon us. So, we all should render, give, and submit our lives to God, for we were created by him and for him. When we render our lives to him, we willingly embrace the differences between the sexes. We will not allow the deceptive lie of Satan, “I am in the wrong body” or, “I am non-binary” to take root. God made us as he wills and chooses, and accepting the difference between men and women as God has made us would be a great step in the right direction for healing the mental and emotional disorders we are seeing in our world today.

It truly makes no sense what is going on today among young people and within society as a whole.

Because we have rejected the creator and the distinct roles of his creation, we are seeing a tremendous rise in mental health issues.

I can use a car as a dump truck or a bulldozer, but not long after I do, the car will no longer be useable, nor will it look like it did before. I foolishly tried to make it be something it is not. The same is true for man when we try to make ourselves into something the original equipment manufacturer didn't intend – we wreck the life that we have been given.

C. The purpose of the distinction between Men and Women

Genesis 1:28 (ESV): 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."

The first purpose of mankind was obedience. God issued a command to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. To ensure that was accomplished, God added his blessing to the bond between men and women.

Neither one could produce new generations apart from the other. This created within the bond of marriage a codependency that was good and righteous.

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When man, the male was created, he was created to rule the creation in God's stead. When the woman, the female counterpart to the male was created, she was created to assist the man in the work God had given to him.

These roles were created and ordained by God, and when we follow them according to his will, we produce happier, healthier, and better-adjusted families.

Secondly, man ruled over the creation. To have dominion means to take responsibility for, and to oversee the creation God had made. This defined man's unique relation to creation. He was a part of the creation, yet given responsibility over it, which set mankind apart from all other parts of the created world.

To subdue and have dominion does not suggest some sort of dictatorial leadership over the creation, but rather a guided, rational, and ordered oversight. By being obedient to this order, the creation would yield the riches of all God intended for humanity's benefit and accomplish the purposes of God through the exercise of this divine mandate.

Unfortunately today, environmentalism sets the creation above humanity and its needs. Many in the environmental movement are merely using it as a tool to gain power and wealth over the vast populations of the world.

In 2012, Alex Newman wrote these words in an article exposing the environmental agenda.

“During the United Nations Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in late June, Christ the Redeemer — the city’s most famous landmark, a massive statue of Jesus Christ on top of Corcovado mountain overlooking Rio — was illuminated using bright green lights. It was a fitting symbol for the controversial summit in more ways than one. Shortly before the conference began, green legend James Lovelock — the scientist and environmentalist who first came up with the whole “Gaia” concept — warned that the “green religion” was now “taking over from the Christian religion.” While it may sound absurd to most Americans, for many Rio+20 summit participants, the stunt with green lights shining on the statue of Christ no doubt had a special meaning.”

It seems that the Green New Deal people want a new world religion. Man continues his rebellion against the creator. What we are doing today is treating the creation as if it is God rather than taking control of our environment, subduing it, and using it for our blessing and God’s glory.

The third purpose was procreation. “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” Population control is not from God – it never has been and never will be. Yet, humanity and its corrupted image of God have decided that we know best and that we ought to destroy life. With birth control, abortion, and the propaganda that has been spewed from our newsrooms, classrooms, and churchhouses over the past 100 years, we are seeing a decline in our population.

When a people group drops below 2,000 births per woman of childbearing age, that group will cease to exist in the next five decades. According to the CDC, the U.S. average has been 1,700 since 2017.

Only South Dakota and Utah are above the population replacement numbers. God intends that the world is filled with people. He gave us personal intimate relationships between men and women to ensure that his creation would be filled with humanity.

Once again, man has decided we know better than the Lord. We are rapidly returning to the religion and government of Babel.

D. The Fall and Redemption of Man

Genesis 3:6–7 (ESV): 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Here we are introduced to mankind's fall from grace and subsequent understanding that because of sin, a covering was necessary.

First, the woman is seduced and deceived. This is not a deliberate sin; she believed this was the right thing to do.

We see the same today as Satan continues his deceptive ways, and humanity continues to act in ways contrary to God's will. However, with the man, it is deliberate, "he ate", which is direct disobedience to God. He stands by silently and she eats; then the man deliberately disobeys God's command and he too eats.

They will now see their nakedness. They have lost the innocence that was theirs prior to the act of eating the forbidden fruit. Without any instruction, there was a conscience sense that we needed a covering because they felt ashamed. Soon, they would face the consequence of the deception and deliberate act of disobedience.

This will plunge all their unborn children into sin's destruction and death, which is the Bible's explanation for all evil that exists in the world today. We opened the door and invited wickedness in, but then we turned and cursed God for not stopping evil and its spread. However, the act of rebellion sets the stage for the planned redemption of humanity through the Son of God.

Man's redemption would be foreshadowed in the killing of an innocent animal to cover the couple. Genesis 3:21 (ESV): *21 And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.*

God's judgment is also foreshadowed in the act of driving them from the garden.

Man now must live, and survive according to his wits and his effort. God will no longer provide all he needs to survive.

Genesis 3:23–24 (ESV): 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

However, God promised that one day all that had happened would be reversed and all would be set right by the offspring of the woman.

Genesis 3:15 (ESV): 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

This is the promise of a redeemer through the woman, not the man. There would be a specific woman at a specific time in history who would have the seed of a child within her. She would give birth and that child would be the restorer of all that Adam had destroyed through his sinful choice.

Now, since the redeemer (Jesus Christ) has come, men are called by the Spirit of God into repentance, “turn from sin to me.” When anyone comes in faith, God’s grace is manifested toward that sinner, and Adam’s curse of destruction and death in that life is broken.

Despite our rebellion and God's judgment, there is still hope for all humanity. Man has One who stands for him and is willing to restore the relationship with the Father if "Whosoever will" comes!

Additional Scripture:

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.