

FBC POWELL, 7-9-17 AM NOTES
"A Biblical Worldview of Man"
Genesis 1:26-27; 3:1-6
#4 in Series, "A Biblical Worldview"

"Whether conscious or subconscious, every person has some type of worldview. A personal worldview is a combination of all you believe to be true, and what you believe becomes the driving force behind every emotion, decision and action. Therefore, it affects your response to every area of life: from philosophy to science, theology and anthropology to economics, law, politics, art, and social order - everything."
—David Tackett

John 17:17b "Your word is truth."

I. The Perfect Beginning of Man (Genesis 1:26-27)

Acts 17:24-25 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things."

Isaiah 43:7 "Everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made."

Revelation 4:11 "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

A. Man Is Like God Morally

Romans 2:14-15 "For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them."

B. Man Is Like God Spiritually

C. Man Is Like God Mentally

Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man."

1 John 3:2 "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is."

II. The Problem That Ruined Man (Genesis 3:1-6)

Genesis 6:5 "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

Genesis 2:16-17 "The Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.'"

A. The Serpent (v. 1a)

B. The Strategy (v. 1b-3)

C. The Seduction (v. 4-5)

D. The Sin (v. 6)

III. The Present State of Man

Genesis 2:17 “but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

Romans 5:12 “Therefore, just as through one-man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned...”

1 Corinthians 15:22a says “For as in Adam all die...”

Romans 5:19 “For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners...”

Ephesians 2:1-2 “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”

Psalms 51:5 (CSB) “Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me.”

John 3:18 (CSB) “Anyone who believes in Him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the One and Only Son of God.”

IV. The Provision for Fallen Man

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 3:17 “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

“The same Son of God who created and sustains the universe ultimately and permanently joined that creation in order to redeem it. In His incarnation, God the Son became a man, and thus experienced our embodied existence. Then, in His humanity, He did what God demanded, perfectly obeying the law, and thereby fulfilling the covenant that He had broken in Adam. Although Jesus Himself was never a sinner, He nevertheless endured the sufferings and sorrows of life in a fallen world, including weakness, pain, grief, cruelty, persecution, torture, and finally death. Thus we have a God who fully understands what it is like for us to endure all the troubles and tribulations of our present existence.”

—Philip Graham Ryken

2 Corinthians 5:21 “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Colossians 3:4b “...Christ, who is our life...”

2 Peter 1:4b “He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature...” **Ephesians 2:8-9** “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that **not of yourselves**, it is **the gift of God**; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Romans 8:1 “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

First Baptist Church Powell 07 09 17 AM
Sermon 4: A Biblical Worldview of Man

Genesis 1:26-27; 3:1-6

In this series, I have shared a different definition or description to help us answer the question, “What is a worldview?” Here is a definition from David Tackett:

Whether conscious or subconscious, every person has some type of worldview. A personal worldview is a combination of all you believe to be true, and what you believe becomes the driving force behind every emotion, decision, and action. Therefore, it affects your response to every area of life: from philosophy to science, theology and anthropology to economics, law, politics, art, and social order – everything.

— David Tackett.

The problem with so many people is that they have never clearly and thoughtfully answered the question, “What is my worldview?” I long for you to have a consistently biblical worldview that is reflected in the pattern of your life. A *biblical* worldview means that what we believe and what drives the decisions that we make are rooted in the Scriptures. It is impossible to have a biblical worldview if you do not know the Bible. That explains why we are *unapologetic fanatics* about teaching the Bible from the pulpit, in small groups, Wednesday night classes, and periodic special seminars with guest teachers and/or preachers. That is why we constantly encourage you, admonish you, plead with you to consume the Scriptures.

What I am about to say may sound arrogant, but it is true. The only worldview that is based completely on truth is a biblical worldview. As we have quoted most every week in this series, in John 17:17b, God the Son says to the Father, “Your word is truth.” It is not just that the Bible contains truth; the Bible in its entirety is truth. Therefore, the only worldview that is based completely on truth is a biblical worldview.

Not everyone is as excited about this series as I am. There are likely some who make statements like this: “I’m struggling with all kinds of problems in my life – family problems, money problems, a volatile marriage, rebellious children, a cheating spouse, etc., so I don’t need a bunch of philosophical impractical messages. I am drowning and I need someone to throw me a rope.” I understand that, but you need to understand that “quick fixes” are not fixes at all! What you really need to know is why you are in this dilemma, what kind of rope do you need, where will you be pulled to if you grab that rope, and what do you need to do long term to deal with the problem in a way that makes you more like Jesus and gives maximum glory to God. You find those answers from the Scriptures, not in little “life lessons” that give five easy steps to make you feel better about yourself and your situation. As you immerse yourself in the study of the Scriptures, you begin to develop a biblical worldview and with that worldview comes an understanding of what has happened and clear direction as to what you need to do and how you do it.

Thus far in this series, we looked at an overview of a biblical worldview, a biblical worldview of origins, a biblical worldview of authority, and today we are examining a biblical worldview of man. When I use the term “man” in this message, I will not be speaking of just males but of mankind – male and female. This message is a biblical worldview of us. Why are we in the mess we are in? Is there any hope? What role does the church play in all of this?

I. The Perfect Beginning of Man (Genesis 1:26-27)

Have you ever thought about why God created man? It was certainly not because He needed us or was incomplete without us. Our triune God is absolutely self-sufficient. He did not create man because He was lonely. There was and is a perfect love, companionship, and completeness

within the Trinity that we cannot completely understand. God was totally fulfilled and complete before He created man.

We read in Acts 17:24-25: “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things.”

We know that being omniscient (all knowing), God knew that man would fall through sin, and He knew all of the consequences of sin coming into the world. Why, knowing all of that would God create man? The answer is simple. God created man for His glory. Isaiah 43:7: “Everyone who is called by My name, and *whom I have created for My glory*, whom I have formed, even whom I have made.” Does it rub you wrong that God created man for His own glory? Does it make God seem a little self-centered? If a human being said, “I do all that I do for my glory”, it would definitely reveal a problem. We don’t deserve glory! We are not worthy of glory! God alone deserves glory, all glory, and God alone is worthy of glory. Revelation 4:11: “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.” It would be wrong for God to not seek glory, because He alone is worthy of all glory.

To display His glory, God created man in His image (Genesis 1:26a). The Hebrew words for image and likeness both refer to something that is similar but not identical to the thing it is the image and likeness of. The word image can also be used of something that represents something else [Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, page 442] Wayne Grudem summarizes the meaning of these words for the first hearers: “When Scripture reports that God said, ‘Let us make man in our image after our likeness’ (Genesis 1:26), it simply would have meant to the original readers, ‘Let us make man like us and to represent us.’” [Grudem, page 443]

That brings up the question, “How is man like God?” That is a question requiring a large book to answer it, but it certainly would mean the following.

A. Man Is Like God Morally

God has written His laws on the hearts of man. There is an innate knowledge of right and wrong in man. Romans 2:14-15: “For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them.” Certainly that does not make man morally identical to God, but like Him and representing Him morally.

B. Man Is Like God Spiritually

We have bodies, but we also have an immaterial part – a spirit. When alive, that spirit puts us in tune with God and allows us to know God and have intimate fellowship with Him. This is something that separates man from animals. No animal can know God because animals do not have a spirit and cannot tune in to the non-material world.

C. Man Is Like God Mentally

We have ability to reason and think logically and learn and pass on that learning to others. Animals do not engage in abstract reasoning.

That certainly isn’t an exhaustive teaching of what being created in the image and likeness of God means, but it does give an accurate overview.

When sin came into the world and man fell (as we will see in Genesis 3), that image of God was distorted, but not lost. After the fall into sin in Genesis 3, we see that man was still in the image of God. Genesis 9:6: “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man.” When a person is saved, made a new creation in Christ, there is a process started that moves us back toward the undistorted image of God. That process is called “sanctification” and as we are conformed to the likeness of Christ, we are restoring the image and likeness of God. When Christ returns and we are glorified, the process will be complete and the image will be restored completely. 1 John 3:2: “Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.”

When you understand what it means to be in the image of God, it gives dignity and importance to all human life. The person in the womb is a person in God’s image. That affects how you view abortion. The aged person who may no longer be productive because of mental incapacitation and the mentally handicapped person is still a person in the image of God and that affects how you view euthanasia. It also affects how we view people caught in the clutches of sin. While we may be repulsed by their sin, we remember that there is still the image of God there (as distorted and as damaged as it is) and we never minimize their sin, but we see them as the mission field and not the enemy.

A Biblical worldview of man starts by seeing man as being in the image of God.

II. The Problem That Ruined Man (Genesis 3:1-6)

In order to have a biblical view of man, we must understand what happened in Genesis 3. I believe that you get in hermeneutical (the science of interpretation) trouble if you don’t take Genesis 3 literally. The reasoning of Scripture (especially the book of Romans) breaks down if Adam and Eve were allegorical figures representing humankind. There is no interpretative mandate not to take the event and the consequences literally. What we are talking about is what the theologians call the doctrine of original sin. After the peace and perfection of Genesis 1-2, we see the quick devolution into chaos, murder, disorder, conflict, struggle, pain, and death. Specifically, we see it go from God saying the creation is “very good” in 1:31, to a creation saturated with evil in Genesis 6:5: “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

The primary way that we glorify God is to love Him supremely and obey Him completely. God gave Adam and Eve the opportunity to glorify Him by providing just one possibility to disobey. We read of it in Genesis 2:16-17: “The Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.’” What happened?

A. The Serpent (v. 1a)

We know from comparing Scripture with Scripture that the serpent was Satan taking the form of a serpent or inhabiting a serpent (Revelation 12:9 “the serpent of old who is called the devil”). The word “crafty” in verse 1 means cunning and subtle. We would say today that he was a “smooth operator.”

B. The Strategy (v. 1b-3)

Eve’s first failure was to begin a dialogue with the devil. Once we start debating a temptation, and examining it, we are heading for failure. Satan’s initial strategy was to entice Eve to question God’s Word – “Indeed, has God said...” This question (which I believe is the first question in Scripture) was designed to cause her to doubt God’s goodness and His desire for her best. Notice

how he makes God's minimal prohibition a repressive prohibition. This is planting seeds of doubt about God's goodness and love. In Eve's reply, we see how Satan's strategy is starting to work as Eve adds to God's prohibition by saying, "nor shall you touch it." Anytime someone questions God's goodness, they have been having a dialogue with the Devil.

C. The Seduction (vv. 4-5)

Verse 4 is the Devil's fake gospel – there are no consequences of sin. He tells her that she will be like God. The phrase "knowing good and evil" is the sense of "determining good and evil." In other words, you can set your own standards; you can determine what is good and what is evil for you. Oh how we see that today in our culture with moral relativism. The view that Satan fosters is the view that truth, right, and wrong are individually determined.

D. The Sin (v. 6)

Notice that there was an appeal to her *physical* appetite: "...the woman saw that the tree was good for food..." Then, there was an appeal to her *emotional* appetite: "it was a delight to the eyes..." She was drawn to the forbidden fruit's beauty because she had bought into the lie that God was holding something good back from her. Finally, there was an appeal to her *intellectual* appetite: "and that the tree was desirable to make one wise." Her mind wanted to experience the "wisdom" that would come from this act of defiance against God. When she gets to this point, it is a small step to actually take the fruit and eat of it. In that act we see the devastating consequences that are being experienced daily in the lives of all human beings. All natural disasters, all suffering, all pain can be traced back to that simple statement, "she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate."

III. The Present State of Man

The present state of man apart from God's remedy of sin is spiritual death. God said in Genesis 2:17: "but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." The death was obviously not physical death since Adam and Eve lived many more years. However, it was after sin came into the world, that the process of physical death started. But what really died was Adam's spirit – that part of him that allowed him to know and have communion with God. Let me bring this from history to today. We were in Adam. He was the federal head of the human race and he was also our literal first ancestor. Our DNA came from his. Listen to these key verses. Romans 5:12: "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned." The words, "all sinned" are in a tense (aorist) that indicates something that has happened at a point of time in the past. The sense is that all sinned in Adam. We were in his gene pool. That is why 1 Corinthians 15:22a says "For as in Adam all die..." Romans 5:19: "For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners..."

The sad truth is that because of Sin coming into the world, all of mankind – every descendent of Adam – is spiritually dead. Ephesians 2:1-2: "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience." We didn't have to sin a certain amount to come to this predicament; we were born in sin. Our very natures were corrupt. We were incapable of pleasing God and incapable of really knowing the God who can only be known through our spirit which was dead in trespasses and sin.

This explains why we don't have to commit a certain number of sins to be lost, to be separated from God. Psalm 51:5 (CSB): "Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother

conceived me.” **John 3:18 (CSB)** “Anyone who believes in Him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the One and Only Son of God.”

IV. The Provision for Fallen Man

God would have been perfectly just and righteous if He had left all mankind in their hopeless, in their “headed for Hell condition.” But remember earlier that we learned that the reason God created man was for His glory. The primary way that God is glorified is when His attributes are put on display. But justice and wrath are not all of His attributes! He is also gracious, merciful, and loving. God’s glory is manifested in the provision He made for fallen man through the work of His Son on the cross. That loving compassion of God is clearly manifested in the words of the most quoted verse of the Bible – John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” Verse 17 is just as important! John 3:17: “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

God’s gracious provision for fallen man however could not violate His perfect justice. Because God is just, the full payment for man’s sin is required. The center of the Gospel is that the God who was offended for man’s sin actually offered up His only begotten Son to take that payment on Himself at Calvary’s cross. One Bible scholar put it this way:

The same Son of God who created and sustains the universe ultimately and permanently joined that creation in order to redeem it. In His incarnation, God the Son became a man, and thus experienced our embodied existence. Then, in His humanity, He did what God demanded, perfectly obeying the law, and thereby fulfilling the covenant that He had broken in Adam. Although Jesus Himself was never a sinner, He nevertheless endured the sufferings and sorrows of life in a fallen world, including weakness, pain, grief, cruelty, persecution, torture, and finally death. Thus we have a God who fully understands what it is like for us to endure all the troubles and tribulations of our present existence.

[Philip Graham Ryken, *What Is the Christian Worldview?*, page 33]

But more than that, Jesus actually did something about our “separated from God” condition. As 2 Corinthians 5:21 so eloquently says, “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” God the Son took the sin of all who would repent and come to Him in total trust that His shed blood, His poured out life, was a sufficient payment, and by faith, that payment is put on our account. Hallelujah!

Conclusion

Christ reverses the consequence of man’s sin’s through the cross and subsequent resurrection. Man is in a state of spiritual death; Jesus gives spiritual life. Colossians 3:4b: “...Christ, who is our life...” Man from birth has a sinful nature; Jesus gives a new nature. 2 Peter 1:4b: “He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature...” We had a total inability to do anything about our condition because we were dead in trespasses and sin, but Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that *not of yourselves*, it is *the gift of God*; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” We were under condemnation, separated from God, but Romans 8:1 says, “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

This is a biblical worldview of man. Our passion, our consuming desire ought to be to share this good news that the spiritually dead sinner who has a total inability to do anything about His hopeless condition of being eternally condemned *in Christ* is given life (Christ's life, eternal life), given a new nature, given the gift of salvation, and is given a future with no condemnation! How can we know that and keep silent?