

Twenty Things Every Christian Should Know



Objectives:

Identify the most commonly accepted beliefs about the Christian Faith and how they interact to ground our faith



Why study in this order?

Knowing the Bible

↳ Allows us to know God

Who is Triune

And was responsible for Creation

Therefore, we need to pray to Him

Understanding that there are Angels & Demons

↳ That God created Man

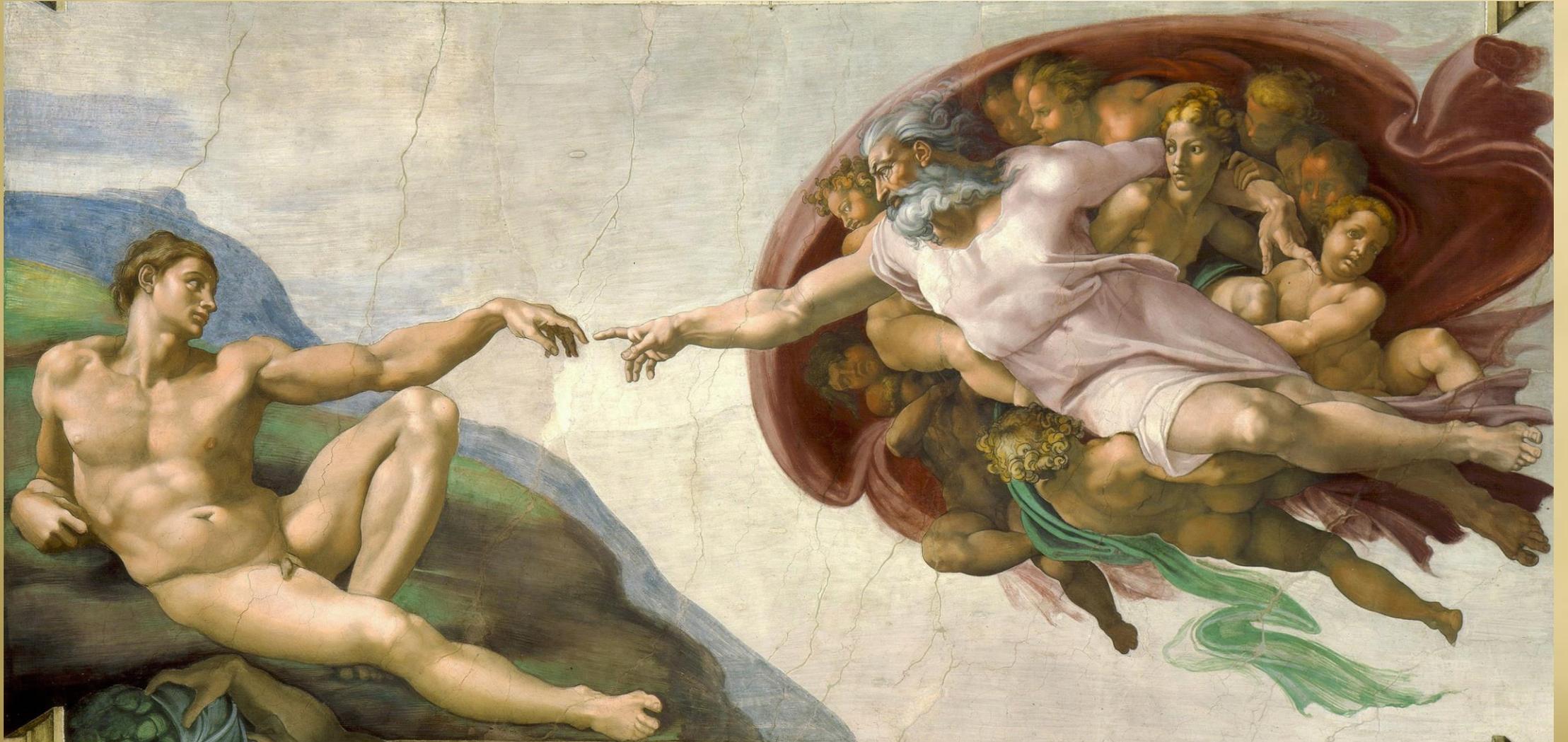
↳ However, Man Sinned

So God sent Christ

To offer an Atonement



What Is Man? (And Why did God create us?)



What Is Man?

So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:27-28



What Is Man?

➤ Key Points:

- Man was Created for God's Glory**
- Man was Created in God's Image**
- Man has Responsibilities as Creature in His image**



What Is Man?

Man was Created for God's Glory

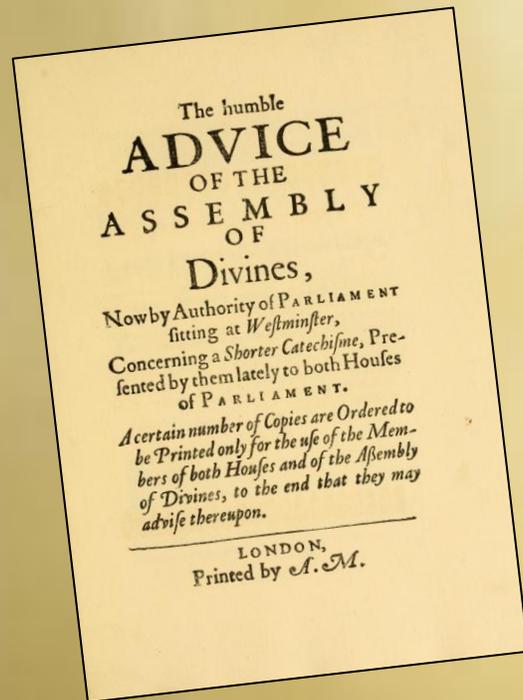
Origin - Humanity was directly created by God, not evolved, as a special act of creation. Humans were made in the "image and likeness" of God, possessing intelligence, morality, and a spirit

Nature - Body and Soul/Spirit: Humans are composed of physical bodies and a spiritual component. This makes them both biological beings and spiritual, moral agents.



What Is Man?

Westminster Shorter Catechism 1646



Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

**A. Man's chief end is to glorify
God, and to enjoy him for ever.**

What Is Man?

Because we were created for God's glory, our goal should be to live for his glory.

Giving God glory is part of the life Jesus spoke of:

“ I came that they may have life and have it abundantly”

John 10:10



What Is Man?

We are to glorify Him by loving Him as He instructs us. (Mark 12:30)

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' Mark 12:30

We are to glorify Him by telling others about Him. (2 Tim 4:2)

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 1 Timothy 4:2

We are to glorify Him by representing Him well. (1 Peter 3:15-16)

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 1 Peter 3:15-16

What Is Man?

The fact that man is in the image of God means that man is like God and represents God. (Gen 1:27)

We are like God in that we have:

- **Intellect**
- **Personal will**
- **Morality**
- **A Spirit**



What Is Man?

The Fall: God's Image is Distorted but Not Lost

Because of sin, God's image in us is partly distorted. His image is not seen as clearly as it once was. Sin distorts our moral judgement, clouds our thinking, and hinders our fellowship with others.

**For now, we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face.
Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have
been fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:12**



What Is Man?

Through redemption in Christ, we experience a progressive recovering of more of God's image.

And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Colossians 3:10

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18



What Is Man?

At Christ's return we will experience the complete restoration of God's image.

Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:49



What Is Man?

Man has Responsibilities as creatures in God's Image. As moral agents, humans are responsible to God for their actions

As creatures made in God's image, we were also made to be his representatives on earth.

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." Genesis 1:26



What Is Man?

As God's representatives on the earth, we are also called to take care of his land.

You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

Psalm 8:6-8



What Is Man?

As God's representatives on the earth, we are to make a certain kind of disciple:

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20



What Is Man?

Therefore,

We have great hope and respect for all people- regardless of their state.

They, like us, are the culmination of God's infinitely wise and skillful creation.



WHAT IS SIN?



WHAT IS SIN?

Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature.

“Sin is not only an act of wrongdoing but a state of alienation from God”

Evangelical Dictionary of Theology



WHAT IS SIN?

Two words in the original languages



The word sin in Hebrew is [*chattath*], in Greek it is [*hamartia*].

- **Both these words mean 'to miss the mark.'**
- **With relationship to God's laws, they mean that one has failed to meet the standard set by God.**
- **God's mark or standard is His law.**
- **Thus, sin is the transgression of any of the laws of God.**



WHAT IS SIN?

Sin is not a sliding scale, we either are, or are not sinful
(James 2:10-11)

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

James 2:10-11



The Ten Commandments:

Have you ever, once, broken any of these?

- 1. You shall have no other gods before me.**
- 2. You shall not make for yourself a carved image**
- 3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain,**
- 4. Remember the Sabbath day**
- 5. Honor your father and your mother**
- 6. You shall not murder.**
- 7. You shall not commit adultery**
- 8. You shall not steal**
- 9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor**
- 10. You shall not covet**

Exodus 20:1-17

WHAT IS SIN?

The Origin of Sin: God is not to be blamed for sin

“The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.” Deuteronomy 32:4

“Therefore, hear me, you men of understanding: far be it from God that he should do wickedness, and from the Almighty that he should do wrong.” Job 34:10



WHAT IS SIN?

Sin existed in Satan and his demons before the disobedience of Adam and Eve(Genesis 3:1-6)

Sin entered the world through the decisions made by Adam and Eve

- **The truth of God: You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden**
- **Satan twists God's word: Did God actually say that?**
- **Adam and Eve had to choose between God's word and Satan's lie**
- **They chose poorly**



WHAT IS SIN?

The desire to sin is equal to sin in God's eyes

But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. Matthew 5:22

Mat 5:22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. Matthew 5:28



WHAT IS SIN?

How does the sin of Adam affect us?

Imputed Guilt: We are counted guilty because of Adam's sin

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:18-19



WHAT IS SIN?

How does the sin of Adam affect us?

Imputed Corruption: We have a sinful nature because of Adam's sin

I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalm 5:1-5

Among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. Ephesians 2:3



WHAT IS SIN?

Actual sin in our lives: All people are sinful before God

They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt;
there is none who does good, not even one. Psalm 14:3

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:8-10



WHAT IS SIN?

Is there an 'Age of Accountability'?

Scripture seems to indicate otherwise

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalm 51:5

The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies. Psalm 58:3



Infants who die: Can they be saved?

Two views:

- 1 All have sinned therefore they must accept Christ. Infants cannot do that, therefore, they would be lost
2. Refusing to accept Christ results in being lost. Infants cannot refuse Christ, therefore they would not be lost.

There are suggestions in Scripture that God can make special dispensation

For he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. Luke 1:15

David believed he would see again his deceased infant son 2 Samuel 12:22-23



What happens when a Christian sins?

Our legal standing before God is unchanged

**There is therefore now no condemnation for those
who are in Christ Jesus.**

Romans 8:1



However:

Our fellowship with God is disrupted and our Christian life is damaged

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” Hebrews 12:6

For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. Hebrews 12:10

Our Christian life and our fruitfulness in ministry are damaged

Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? Romans 6:16



WHAT IS SIN?

What is the unpardonable sin?

Malicious, willful rejection and slander against the Holy Spirit's work attesting to Christ and attributing that work to Satan.

If you are afraid that you have committed this sin, you haven't.

Therefore, I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Matthew 12:31-32



WHAT IS SIN?

The Punishment of Sin

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

Primary Reason - *God's righteousness demands it so that he might be glorified in the universe that he has created.*

But let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

Jeremiah 9:24



More Good News:

Imputed righteousness

If Adam's sin was imputed to us, so too was Jesus' righteousness imputed to those who accept Him. Jesus' righteousness imputed to us means that, through faith, we are made legally righteous in God's eyes.

This "double imputation" involves our sin being placed on Jesus, and His righteousness being placed on us, allowing God to declare us just and accept us.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21



Next Week:

❖ **Who is Christ?**

❖ **What is the Atonement?**

