

Brandon Baptist Church

Statement of Faith

Article 3 – OF THE FALL OF MAN

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Of the FALL OF MAN

We believe that

- man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his maker;
- but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state;
- in consequence of which all mankind are sinners,
- not by constraint or necessity, but by choice;
- being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions, and, therefore, under just condemnation to eternal ruin;
- without defense or excuse.

man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his maker;

- ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them; ³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Genesis 1:27,31
- ¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Genesis 2:15-17
- ²⁹ Truly, this only I have found:
That God made man upright,
But they have sought out many schemes.” Ecclesiastes 7:29

Deeper Look: Made in the Image of God

Man is to Emulate God

- God is Spirit
 - God breathed the breath of life into Adam, and he became a living being.
- God is the Lord
 - Man is commanded to subdue and have dominion over the earth
- God Created the Heavens and the Earth
 - Man is put in Eden to tend and keep the Earth
- God is the Law Giver
 - Man is the Law Keeper and Law Breaker
- God destroyed the world by flood because of Evil
 - Man is commanded to destroy Evil in his community

Man's role is to Glorify God

Praise Him on Earth as he is Praised in Heaven

See that God's will is done on Earth as it is in Heaven

⁵ Let the saints be joyful in glory;
Let them sing aloud on their beds.
⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their
mouth,
And a two-edged sword in their hand,
⁷ To execute vengeance on the nations,
And punishments on the peoples;
⁸ To bind their kings with chains,
And their nobles with fetters of iron;
⁹ To execute on them the written
judgment—
This honor have all His saints. Psalms
149:5-9

Deeper Look: The Tree of Life

- ⁸ The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life** was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ; ¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “**Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;** ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Genesis 2:8-9; 15-17

In the Garden, God gave Adam unfettered access to Life until the Fall. The source of life was still external to Adam, but it was within creation, in the Garden.

After the Fall, outside the Garden, creation would no longer sustain eternal life. Only in Christ do we return to a state of Holiness and are reconnected to eternal life, now through Christ alone.

Jesus describes himself as the Bread of Life, Living Water, the Vine.

53 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. John 6:53-54

but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state;

- ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Genesis 3:6
- ¹² Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”
¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”
The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” Genesis 3:12-13
- ¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned Romans 5:12

in consequence of which all mankind are sinners,

- ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. ¹⁷ For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)
¹⁸ Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Romans 5:15-19

in consequence of which all mankind are sinners (cont)

- ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
John 3:6
- ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me. Psalms 51:5

not by constraint or necessity, but by choice;

- ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6
- ¹² So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. Genesis 6:12

not by constraint or necessity, but by choice;

⁹ What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.

¹⁰ As it is written:

“There is none righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ There is none who understands;
There is none who seeks after God.

¹² They have all turned aside;
They have together become unprofitable;
There is none who does good, no, not one.”

¹³ “Their throat is an open tomb;
With their tongues they have practiced deceit”;

“The poison of asps is under their lips”;

¹⁴ “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.”

¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their ways;

¹⁷ And the way of peace they have not known.”

¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Romans 3:9-18

being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions, and, therefore, under just condemnation to eternal ruin;

- ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Ephesians 2:3
- ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. Romans 1:18, 32
- ¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.” Galatians 3:10
- ⁴¹ “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: Matthew 25:41
- ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:15

without defense or excuse.

- ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse Romans 1:20
- ¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Romans 3:19
- ¹⁹ “Yet you say, ‘Why should the son not bear the guilt of the father?’ Because the son has done what is lawful and right, and has kept all My statutes and observed them, he shall surely live. ²⁰ The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. Ezekiel 18:19-20
- ²² But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Galatians 3:22

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