

**Session Five: Implications and Application of Human Life in Creation,
the Fall, Redemption, and the New Creation**

V. Implications and Application

A. The Necessity of a *God-encompassing* Framework for a Correct Understanding of Human Nature

1. Creation

- Creator-creature distinction provides the necessary overarching framework for a Christian world view
- Image of God requires primacy and ultimacy of God in correctly understanding man

2. Fall

- Sin in the fall is seen in disobedience to God. The essence of sin is the urge for independence from God, rather than joyful submission to God
- The most severe consequence of sin is separation from God

3. Redemption

- God alone can save; God chooses freely to save; God alone is the efficacious Savior
- The honor and glory due to God for our salvation is Trinitarian, both in reality and in our expression: praise be to the Father for designing the plan of salvation and for sending his Son die and rise again for our sin, whose saving work becomes ours only through the powerful work of the Holy Spirit.

4. New Creation

- The new creation was the design God had for his people from before creation, but fulfilled only through the pathway of sin and redemption
- The most glorious reality of the new creation is being in the presence of God forever

B. The Necessity of a *Christ-centered* Framework for a Correct Understanding of Human Nature

1. Creation

- Christ, as the Agent of the Father in creation, has intrinsic divine authority over all that he has made, though as Messiah (the God-man) he must win the right to reign over all
- Creation in the image of God has in mind, from the outset, our re-creation in the image of Christ, as those who, with Christ, reign over all

2. Fall

- The sin of Adam and Eve is the prerequisite for the fulfillment of the Father's purpose (1 Pet 1:20) to save his people through the "seed of the woman" (Gen 3:15)

- Our sinful human lives stand in stark contrast to Jesus' glorious and perfect human life

3. Redemption

- For many reasons, we gladly affirm that Christ is the exclusive Savior
- Our redemption in Christ is to be made like Christ (Rom 8:29; 2 Cor 3:18; 1 John 3:1-2)

4. New Creation

- We will worship forever the Lamb who was slain, to the glory of the Father, in the ongoing power of the Spirit
- Christ will forever represent to us 1) the very nature of God his Father and 2) true and full human existence lived at its best

C. The Necessity of a *Gospel-dependent* Framework for a Correct Understanding of Human Nature

1. Creation

- Such grace (undeserved favor) is shown to Adam and Eve in the Garden – “of all of the trees of the garden you may freely eat” – indeed, such lavish generosity and love
- Such compassion in giving to man the moral commandment, warning him of certain destruction for eating of the tree. The warnings of God are evidences of his grace

2. Fall

- Can we ever cease to praise God that, in the very moment of our sinful rebellion which plunged the human race and the cosmos into disorder and destruction, God pledges a “seed” who will undo the vicious work of the devil?
- May we never forget the horrors and consequences of our sin. To the extent we forget, we fail to understand and appreciate the glories of the gospel by which we are saved

3. Redemption

- The good news of the gospel is Christ's death and resurrection by which the penalty of our sin is paid and its guilt removed – bringing forth the reality of justification by faith
- The good news of the gospel is also Christ's death and resurrection by which the power of sin is conquered and its bondage of us is destroyed – bringing forth the reality of transformation in sanctification leading to the glory of our full new creation

4. New Creation

- What grace and power is ours forever! Our everlasting obedience is not automatic, but Christ-bought and Spirit-wrought
- What joy and gladness is ours forever! Our everlasting service will fulfill God's design for our living as the image of Christ, reigning with him forever

