

Doctrinal Statement

Man

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I believe God made mankind in His image to partner with as vice-regents in order to mediate His presence, advance creation, and preserve His rule (Gen. 1:26-28; Gen. 2:15-20, Matt.28:18-20). Mankind is comprised of male and female who are distinct by gender but equal in personhood and value, and share the same priestly roles in ruling, shepherding, and leading creation and the church (Gen. 1:26-28; Eph. 5:21-33; Rom.16:1-16). God, who is solely responsible for human existence and identity, created (breathed life into) mankind mortal (from dust) with complete access to eternal life, which is the unblemished, relational presence of God (the tree of life) (Gen. 2:7; Gen. 3:24; John 17:3). But because of the sin of Adam and Eve, man lost access to the antidote and became subject to death (Gen. 3:19; Rom. 5:12-21).

Being made in the image of God means that each human was created to live in right relationship with God and others, reflecting His love, desire, and truth in to all (2 Cor. 5:18-20; Matt. 25:37-40). This personal relationship was marred because of sin, defined as man's desire to be like God by positioning themselves as the center and source of life and wisdom (James 1:14-15). Faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is the only antidote to restoring our image bearing nature and living in right relationship with God and others again (John 14:6; Phil. 3:3-9).