



Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:4-25; Romans 5:12-19

Another Month!

- Does God require all Christians to grow? What does God require?
 - **By definition** a disciple grows continuously as he/she pursue his/her desire to be like his/her master. (1 John 2:6; Ephesians 5:1-2; John 13:15; 1 Corinthians 11:1 with Philipians 3:12-14)
 - A person who says they are a Christian and is not growing is either backsliding and in danger of God's discipline (Hebrews 12:5-14) or they are not a Christian.
- Is it required for all Christians to grow together within a Body of Christ (local church)?
 - Each has been given a gif of grace - NOT for ourselves but to serve a Body. (Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11)
 - We are commanded to be good stewards of the grace given to us by using it to help others grow. (1 Peter 4:10-11)
 - Each member must grow with the Body in order that the whole Body can grow and become all that God wants it to be. (Ephesians 4:13, 16)
 - A "Christian" **cannot** grow apart from the Body - MEDITATE ON THIS. (1 Corinthians 12:14-21)
- How does a person who calls themselves a Christian grow within a Body?
 - They gather together frequently - not just on Sundays. (Hebrews 10:25)
 - They pray together as a Body. (Acts 2:42; Romans 12:12; Col 4:2)
 - They study together as a Body. (Ephesians 4:13-16; Acts 2:42)
 - They worship together. (Acts 2:42-47)
 - They fellowship together. (Acts 2:42-47)
 - They serve each other. (Matt 20:28; Eph 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5; Philip 2:5-8)
 - They edify each other. (1 Thessalonians 5:11; **Romans 14:19**; 15:2)
 - They stir each other up to good works. (Hebrews 10:24)
 - They work together. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

- ▶ They minister to each other using the grace and gift God gave them. They do not withhold their gift and God's grace from the Body. (1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Corinthians 12:7; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:7-12)
- When a Body does all the above together their love for each other "abounds more and more". (Philippians 1:9; 1 Thess 3:12; 2 Thess 1:3; Eph 4:16)
- When a person does not see it necessary to participate with the Body regularly they will drift away (Hebrews 2:1-3) and their love for their brethren will grow cold. (Matthew 24:11-12) And not to love our brethren as Christ has loved us is great sin. (John 13:3-35; 1 John 4:7-11, 20-21; 3:10-23; 1 John 5:1)
- Spiritual growth is more important than physical grow. Our physical lives are but a vapor - here today, gone tomorrow - but we, our souls with resurrected bodies live for eternity. (James 4:14; Psalm 62:9; 39:5)
- ★ Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God or do you believe, like many, one can ignore what the Bible says and still be a Christian?

ABC's of Being A Christian (Hebrews 5:12-14)

- ▶ Are you a teacher? Are you a discipler? Who are you discipling?

Do You Know the God of the Bible? (Isaiah 1:3-4)

- See Jeremiah 4:22; 8:7-9; Hosea 4:1, 6; Romans 1:22; 3:11; Psalm 14:1
- Does the God of the Bible fill you with AWE? (Deut 7:21; 10:17, 21; 28:58; Nehemiah 9:32; Psalm 33:8; 47:2; 65:5; 66:3, 5)
- Those who know God obey His commandments. (1 John 2:3-4)

Do You Know Your Enemy? (1 Peter 5:8-9)

- We live in enemy territory! The **whole** world lies under the influence of Satan. (1 John 5:19) The world we live in is DANGEROUS!
- Do you believe this? Does how you live and how you pray show that you really believe this? Do you believe that your children face great evils every day?

Do You Know YOURSELF?

- Why are you who you are?
- Why were you born when you were born?
- Why were you born where you were born?
- Are you an independent person depended on no one?
- Are you a free person, free to do as you please when you please?
- Is your life your life or do you belong to someone else?
- Do you determine your life or is your life determined for you?
- Why are some men/women so evil?
- Why is there evil in me?
- Who holds your destiny?
- What happens when you die?

A Close Look at Man from God's Perspective

- Do you know yourself? Do you know yourself as you ought to know yourself?
Do you know yourself as God know you?
- In our **ABC's** we will look at man as he is revealed in God's Word.
 - ① Man as God originally created Him.
 - ② Man falls into sin.
 - ③ Man re-created into a new creature..
 - ④ Man glorified.

What Is Man? Who Am I?

The Value of Man in God's Eyes (Genesis 1:26-31)

- The first twenty-five verses of the Bible deal with God and God alone!
 - But those twenty-five verses was to provide a place for His greatest creation to exist. (Isaiah 45:18)
- **MEDITATE ON:** The rest of the Bible (ca. 30,978 verses) deal with God dealing with man!
- God created man "in His own image; in the image of God He created both male and female. . ." (Genesis 1:26-27) And only male and female. Jesus affirms this in Matthew 19:4. When one is born into this world he/she is born either a male or a female. The body given to a person is either male or female.
- God's Word affirms that **GOD** (not chance) . . .
 - Created man (Genesis 1:27; Deuteronomy 4:32; Isaiah 45:12)
 - Made man (Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 9:6)
 - Formed man (Genesis 2:7, 8; Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:13)
- ALL men are created in God's image.
 - ★ That image was "in true righteousness and holiness." (Ephesians 4:24).
 - ★ God created man pure, righteous, and holy.
- The body is not the image since God is spirit. So, God's image in man is . . .
 - ① The **MIND** - so that man could know God, His Creator.
 - ② The **EMOTIONS** - so that man could love God, His Creator.
 - ③ The **WILL** - so that man could choose to obey God by doing the will of God, His Creator.
- After God created man He looked and saw that all was **VERY** good. (Gen 1:31)

The WHOLE Man

- God is even more detailed about His **SPECIAL** creation:
- Man is a **complex** being made in the image of God.
- God created man with a ...
 - A **BODY** - this body is fit for this earth. It is with our bodies that we interact with our environment. Both Paul and Peter refer to our bodies as "tents" - temporary housing! (2 Cor 5:1-5; 2 Peter 1:13-14)

- ★ God **prepared** our bodies **individually**. (Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:13) Just as, He prepared a body for Christ. (Hebrews 10:5)
 - Meditate on Exodus 4:11
- SOUL - when God breathed into man His Spirit man became a “living soul”. The soul is the “invisible” part of us. The soul is a person’s life it who the person is.
 - ☆ At death, the body decays but the soul lives on for eternity. At death, the soul goes immediately into the presence of God. (Luke 12:20; Philippians 1:23; 2 Cor 5:8) (See Ezekiel 18:4)
- SPIRIT - The spirit is the “power of life”. When God recalls the spirit He gave to a man the man dies. (Zechariah 12:1; Genesis 2:7; Eccl 12:7)
- HEART - this is the center of a person’s thoughts, intentions, attitudes, desires, motivations, and actions.
 - ★ (Proverbs 4:23) It is out of the heart that comes “the springs of life.”
 - ★ (Matthew 15:19) Jesus affirmed that out of one’s heart comes all good and evil.
- CONSCIENCE - God gave all men a conscience with the ability to make moral/right decisions. (Romans 2:14-15).
- ★ Man is a complex being. ALL of his/her parts are closely interconnected.
- ★ (Ecclesiastes 7:29) God made man upright, but they sought out (pursued) many schemes/inventions.

MOST IMPORTANT FACT About ADAM

- (Genesis 1:) God created Adam to be the FEDERAL HEAD or THE REPRESENTATIVE of the entire human race.
- God gave man, and no other of His creatures, dominion over “over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” (Gen 1:26, 28; Psalm 8:6-8)
- Adam was placed on trial for the whole human race. What Adam would do or not do with all that God had given him he would be doing *for* us.

Adam Sinned!

- When Adam sinned as our FEDERAL HEAD/REPRESENTATIVE **we** sinned! (Romans 5:12).
- God’s curse on Adam (us) **radically** and **wholly** changed man.
- And now all men are born in “the image of Adam” and God’s imaged marred.

BUT We See Jesus! (Hebrews 2:8)

- God sent Jesus as a Man, with a body prepared for Him, in the likeness of man, and as the “express image” of Himself to save His people from their sins. (1 John 4:10; Hebrews 10:25; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 1:1-3)