



CREATION IN CONFLICT

*God created man in his own image, in the image of God
he created him; male and female he created them.*

GENESIS 1:27

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To understand the creation account, the Fall, and the full meaning of the gospel in order to have a clear perspective of the world in which we live and how we can overcome it.

The Original Creation and the First Adam

To understand the problems that we have, we need to go back to the beginning. “The LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being” (Genesis 2:7 NASB). Adam experienced two kinds of life, and we do too:

- *Physical life* (Greek: *bios*). Our soul/spirit is in union with our body. To die physically is to separate the soul/spirit from the body.
- *Spiritual life* (Greek: *zoē*). Our soul/spirit is in union with God. To be spiritually dead is to be separated from God (Ephesians 2:1).

Before the Fall, mankind enjoyed...

- *Significance* (Genesis 1:28). Humanity had a divine purpose.
- *Safety and security* (Genesis 1:29-30). God provided for all of humanity's needs.
- *Belonging* (Genesis 2:18). Humanity had a sense of identity and belonging to God and each other.

The Effects of the Fall (Genesis 3:8–4:9)

“You shall surely die” (Genesis 2:17). When Eve was deceived and Adam deliberately chose to sin, they immediately died spiritually—they were separated from God. (Physical death was another consequence, but that came later.) The essence of Adam’s fall was the deliberate breaking of his intimate relationship with God. Sin can be understood only in terms of our relationship to God and His will. Sinful behavior is the result of fallen humanity attempting to find purpose and meaning in life independent of God. We simply can’t meet our own needs without the life of Christ.

As a result of the Fall, we are all born dead in our trespasses and sins.

- “Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin” (Romans 5:12 NIV).
- “You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:1-2).

The Fall affected humanity in several ways:

1. *In our minds.* The concept of “knowing” was no longer relational (see Ephesians 4:17-18).
2. *In our emotions.* Humanity experienced...
 - fear and anxiety (Genesis 3:10)
 - shame and guilt
 - depression and anger (Genesis 4:5-6)
3. *In our wills.* Humanity has the wonderful power to make choices, but since the Fall, people have become inundated with opportunities to make poor choices.
4. *In our relationships.* Humanity had a sense of rejection and a need for belonging.
5. *In our guilt and shame.* People need acceptance and affirmation.
6. *In our weakness and helplessness.* People need strength and self-control.

To reestablish fallen humanity, Jesus came to...

- show us how to live
- die for our sins and give us life
- destroy the works of the devil

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between natural life and spiritual life?
2. What attributes did Adam and Eve have as a result of creation that turned into needs as a result of the Fall?
3. What did Adam and Eve lose in the Fall, and how does that affect us today?
4. The serpent said, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of *any* tree in the garden?'" (Genesis 3:1). What is wrong with the question, and what characteristic of God is the serpent questioning?
5. Eve said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die" (verse 3). What did Eve add to God's command?
6. The serpent said, "You will not surely die" (verse 4). What characteristic of God is the serpent questioning?
7. Verse 6 reads, "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate." What correlation do you see between those channels of temptation and this New Testament verse? "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world" (1 John 2:16 NASB).
8. Satan used those same three channels to tempt Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11). How does knowing that help us today?
9. What one thing caused the change in Adam and Eve's mental and emotional state in Genesis 3? What conclusions can you draw from that?
10. What three objectives must God accomplish in order to reestablish fallen humanity?