

# **Doctrinal Statement on Man and Sin**

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**An Doctrinal Statement  
Submitted to Dr. Steve Tracy  
Phoenix Seminary  
Scottsdale, Arizona**

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**In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for  
TH 502**

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**by  
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I believe all men and women are created by God and in His Image (Gen. 1.26-27). Being created in the Image of God makes humankind distinct from the rest of creation in that humans have a moral will (Deut. 30.19), emotion, and rational transcendence (Jude 1.10). Mankind's responsibilities, being endowed with the Image of God, are to represent God on Earth by ruling over creation (Gen. 1.26), model God's triune relationship with Himself as we have relationships with other people (John 17.21-22), and to reflect God's personality as we become more Christ-like. Since all humans are created in the Image of God, each individual, regardless of their moral record, has value endowed by God (Psalm 8). This endowed value dictates responsibilities we have to treat every human being with corresponding respect and dignity (Gen. 9.6).

I believe man is a personal being composed of a spirit who is individually created by God (Eccl. 12:7) clothed with a body of earthly flesh (Eccl. 12:7) for our duration of life on this earth. After this life, the just in Christ will be given a new body like Christ's resurrected Body (Philip. 3.21)

Man was created by God guiltless into a perfect world (Gen. 1.31) but through the disobedience of the first man, Adam, sin came into the world and brought guilt and death (Rom. 5.12); so also, in the very same way, guilt and death come to every man because every man sins (Rom. 5.12, Rom. 6.23) and comes short of God's glorious standard (Rom. 3.23). The introduction of sin into the world resulted in God's mercy subjecting all creation to corruption and death in the hope all creation will be restored with those who move from being children of wrath because of their sin (Eph. 2.3), and become the son's of

God (Rom. 8:20-21) by turning from worthless acts and trusting in the free, gracious gift of Christ's substitutionary death offered to all men (Rom. 3.22, 5.17-18, I Tim 2.4-6, John 3.16).

Sin is defined as the active disobedience of a free moral agent to God's Divine law, or the passive indifference of the same to God's affirmation to live a positive holy life. Christ specifically relegated the origin of sin to a man's heart (Matt. 5).