

The Nature of Man

Man's Nature Before Sin	Man's Nature After Sin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created in God's image, after His likeness (Gen 1:26) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bearing or possessing the physical attributes of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clothed in garments of light - God's righteousness (Psalm 104:1, 2, 93:1; Rev 12:1; 1 John 1:5; John 1:4-9) ▪ Possessing a mind that communes with the Spirit of God (Ecclesiastes 3:21; John 4:24; Rom 8:5-10, 16) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Man's spirit (mind, conscience) when guided by the Spirit of God led him to a knowledge of God ▪ Having an ability to reason and rationalize ideas, unlike animals (Gen 1:28; Isaiah 1:18-20; Joshua 24:15, 16; 1 Kings 18:21) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Given a capacity to learn, analyze and respond based on knowledge acquired (Jeremiah 6:16, 17) ▪ Man created as a free moral agent to make decisions for himself ▪ Created as a social being with a capacity to experience emotions such as love, joy, peace, happiness, gentleness, kindness and faithfulness (Exodus 34:5-7; Galatians 5:22, 23) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Man was given a different but equal partner to expand his intellect and share the experiences in learning ▪ Given a helpmate to compliment him in emotions and being ▪ Created with a "glory" similar to that of God. Given dominion over the earth, just as God has dominion over all things (Psalm 8:5-8; Hebrews 2:7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adam was the head of the human race and its caretaker ▪ Adam's acts governed the fate of those whom he bore responsibility and the territory over which he had dominion, the earth (Romans 5:12-14) ▪ Adam was given dominion over the fish, fowl and land dwelling creatures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adam named the animals (Gen 2:20) ▪ Given the "blessing" to procreate and share in the creation process ▪ Appointed the gift of <i>conditional immortality</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adam would continue to live provided he obeyed God's command to eat of the permitted foods for daily sustenance ▪ The human race would continue to exist by obedience to God's command to be fruitful and multiply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born in the sin stained image of Adam – a marred image of God (Gen 5:3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Physical attributes prone to death and decay (Ecclesiastes 12:1-7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Man lost glorious covering and was found naked after sin (Genesis 3:7,10; Job 31:33; Rev 16:15) ▪ Our physical attributes as a result of sin have degenerated so that they may support life for 70-80years (Psa 90:10) ▪ Mankind bound to the curse of sin and death by Satan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mankind led captive to sin and its effects as well as the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:11) ▪ Forfeited dominion of the earth to Satan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Satan stood as prince of this world (John 12:31) ▪ Satan represented earth in the convocation of the heads of God's worlds (Job 1:6-8) ▪ Radical climate changes necessitate shelter and clothing (Genesis 3:21; Jonah 4:5-8) ▪ The earth and all of its inhabitants have been subjected to sin and decay (Romans 8:18-23) ▪ Devil called the Prince of this earth, Prince over the sons of disobedience, the god of this age (Ephesians 2:2; John 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4) ▪ Mankind made subject to death and the grave due to sin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All men would suffer consequences of Adam's sin (1 Corinthians 15:22) ▪ All men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom 3:10-18) ▪ Satan held the keys to death and the grave (Hebrews 2:14, 15) ▪ God left a desire for eternity within man's heart (Ecclesiastes 3:11) ▪ Marriage relationship was marred by the inclusion of sin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women would in toil bear children (Gen 3:16) ▪ A natural "desire" would be given to women towards their husband who were to have the preeminence (Gen 3:16; 4:7) ▪ The wife must ultimately yield her preference and will to the one she has chosen to be her companion, counselor, and protector (1 Corinthians 11:3) ▪ Selfishness, strife and contention would disrupt the unity of marriage if Christ's influence is not present • A life in opposition to the Law of God, by choice and by nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All men are born with a nature inclined to

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ God would grant Adam and his descendants the privilege of eating of the <i>Tree of Life</i> after successfully completing his probation. • Having a life governed by, and in harmony with the perfect law of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christ, the 2nd Adam, came to demonstrate a life in complete harmony with the law of God (John 14:31; Heb 10:7; Rom 5: 18, 19) ▪ Christ showed that God’s law is timeless and would stand eternally, should all heaven and earth pass away (Matthew 5:17-19; Psalm 111:7, 8; Exodus 31:18) ▪ Christ’s love towards God is shown through obedience to His commandments (Heb 10:5-7) • Having a character inclined to godliness and righteousness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adam was created with an innocent, childlike nature without a full knowledge of God or all things; yet with a highly advanced capacity to learn (Gen 2:25) ▪ Lacked a knowledge of evil and sin (innocent, pure) ▪ The law of God was inscribed in Adam’s mind and heart • Given responsibilities, but unencumbered with concerns for food, shelter, and sustenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ God provided things good for food for man & the animals (Gen 1:29, 30) ▪ No need for shelter because the earth’s climate was consistently temperate, never any rainfall nor changing of seasons (Gen 2:5, 6) • Given work to do. just as God has work to do, namely, to create <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adam was created with hands to perform labor ▪ Instructed by God to name the animals ▪ Tended and kept the garden in the land of Eden ▪ Told to be fruitful and fill the earth ▪ Made to be the priest over his earthly family • Having a close personal communion w/ God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Part of the Commonwealth of Heaven and God’s Kingdom ▪ For 6-days of the week, a daily but limited communion with God (Genesis 3:8) ▪ Full day of communion, rest, and worship with God each 7th day with all of creation (Genesis 2: 2, 3; Isaiah 66:23) ▪ Adam related to God as a son relates to his loving father (Luke 3:38, Rom 8:14, 15; Heb 12:7-11; 1 John 3:1) 	<p style="text-align: center;">sin (Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By will and habit we are bound to sin (Jeremiah 13:23; Isaiah 53:6; Jeremiah 4:22; Mark 7:18-23) • Having a character inclined to sin and selfishness, in opposition to the law of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Innocent, childlike nature lost in exchange for a knowledge of sin/evil and its desire would always be for man (Gen 4:7) ▪ Our nature is inclined towards darkness and evil and is repulsed by light (John 1:5; 3:19) ▪ Our selfish, sinful nature (the flesh) is naturally at odds with God and His law (Romans 8:1-8) ▪ Selfishness or Self-awareness caused the couple to flee for shame of their nakedness (Genesis 3:7-11) ▪ Lost part of the glory given by God (Romans 3:23) ▪ Social capacities marred by selfishness such that fear, distrust, loneliness, hatred, and envy replaced God given traits (Galatians 5:19-21; Mark 7:18-23) • Given work to do in order to survive and for sustenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Man would have to work to provide for himself and his family (Gen 3:17-19, Ecclesiastes 5:18-20; Proverbs 19:15; 2 Thessalonians 3:10) ▪ The activities of man’s hands were to keep him from idleness and draw him back to a right relationship with God. (contrast Ezekiel 16:49; 1 Timothy 5:11-13; Colossians 3:23, 24;) • Estranged from God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Man’s sins have separated him from God (Isaiah 59:2; Jeremiah 5:25) ▪ God is continually seeking to restore the relationship with mankind while man runs from God (Genesis 3:8; Luke 15:1-32; Romans 8:15, 16)
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The good news of our redemption in Christ Jesus is that at Christ's Second Coming, we will be fully restored to the image of God before sin. Further, sin will never rise again (Nahum 1:9; Galatians 5:21) because God's people will fully realize the cost of sin and of their own will, will ***choose*** to avoid repeating the mistake of Adam.