

3—The Fall of Mankind

“What We Believe”

Pastor Mike Cooke

“We believe that man [*sic*] was created in the image of God¹, before whom he walked in holiness and purity², but that by voluntary disobedience and transgression, he fell from the Eden³ of purity and innocence to the depths of sin and iniquity⁴, and that in consequence of this, all mankind are sinners⁵ sold unto Satan, sinners not by constraint but by choice⁶, shapen [*sic*] in iniquity and utterly void by nature of that holiness required by the law of God⁷, positively inclined to evil⁸, guilty and without excuse⁹, justly deserving the condemnation of a just and holy God.”¹⁰—*Compiled by A. S. McPherson*

1. Genesis 1:27
So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.
2. Genesis 2:25
Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.
3. Genesis 3:23
So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.
4. Genesis 6:5
The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.
5. Romans 5:19
For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.
6. Romans 5:12
Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.
7. Romans 7:14
We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.
8. Psalms 51:5
Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
9. Romans 1:20
Being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.
10. Psalms 51:4
So you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

Augsburg Confession

Also they teach that since the fall of Adam all men begotten in the natural way are born with sin, that is, without the fear of God, without trust in God, and with concupiscence; and that this disease, or vice of origin, is truly sin, even now condemning and bringing eternal death upon those not born again through Baptism and the Holy Ghost.

They condemn the Pelagians and others who deny that original depravity is sin, and who, to obscure the glory of Christ's merit and benefits, argue that man can be justified before God by his own strength and reason.

"I anathematize the man who either thinks or says that the grace of God, whereby 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,' is not necessary not only for every hour and for every moment, but also for every act of our lives: and those who endeavor to disannul it deserve everlasting punishment."

Signed, Pelagius

Vulgate—*in quo omnes peccaverunt*—"in which/whom all sinned"

Greek—*ἐφ' ἡὸ πάντες ἠέμαρτον*—"in that (because) all sinned"

Pelagius: "The statement that 'all sinned in Adam' was not made because of the sin which is derived from one's birth, but because of imitation of him."