

MANKIND: Beautiful, Broken, Loved

Created in the Image of God to Love God with all our heart and be loved by God for all eternity

1. Henry Ford was riding along as a passenger in one of his new Ford cars...

- a. The car engine started making noises and the car ended up on the side of the road.
- b. The man driving the Ford was amused that Mr. Ford got out of the car dressed in his business suit and began exploring under the hood of the car.
- c. Driver said, "That's a new Ford, only a trained mechanic can get this engine running right. In a few minutes, Mr. Ford had the engine running like it should.
- d. The driver asked, "How did you get to know so much about car engines?"

Mr. Ford said, "I designed this car."

(Michael R. Baggett)

2. God knows us — because He designed us and created us!

- a. He Knows How to Fix Us when we are broken...How to Restore us to keep going strong
- b. Just as 1 Beautiful Brand New Car is broken if only one primary source wire is disconnected
- c. if We Are Disconnected Spiritually from God—we are broken down

I. UNIQUELY BEAUTIFUL

A. UNIQUELY CREATED

1. God created the heavens and the earth for a purpose... (Isaiah 45:18)

- a) To Be Inhabited — By Many Different Types of Creatures (animals, fish, insects)
- b) But In Particular by a Special, Moral/Rational Creature—Made in the Image of God

"Without the presence of rational creatures, the universe would be like a book with no reader, a voice with no one to hear, a beautiful house with no inhabitant." (Jack Cottrell)

2. We Are Both Physical and Spiritual (Genesis 2:7)

- a) God created mankind from the dust of the ground
- b) But Breathed into Man the Breath of Life and we became a living spirit

3. We Are Both Flesh and Spirit (2 Cor. 4:16)

- a) We are made of matter—But we are also a living spirit
- b) A spirit clothed in a material body
- c) An Outward Man and an Inner Man

4. We Are Both Temporary and Eternal (2 Cor. 5:1,5)

- a) We are unique unlike any other part of creation in this dual nature

B. UNIQUELY CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD (Genesis 1:26-27)

1. **LIFE:** God is Life—and He gave us the Gift of Physical Life
2. **SPIRIT:** God is Spirit—and He Gave Us the Gift of a spirit (Zechariah 12:1)
3. **LOVE:** God is Love—He gave us the gift of love and the capacity to love
4. **FREE-WILL:** God has free-will—and used His freewill to give us free-will The Individual Freedom to Choose—and Will to Carry Out Your Own Choices
5. **Created For experiencing the joy of Friendship with God!**

C. UNIQUELY CREATED WITH INCREDIBLE INTRINSIC WORTH (Ps. 8:1-6)

1. Every Human Being is Created in the Image of God!

- a) There is no master race—That's an Atheistic Evolutionary Worldview Belief System
- b) there is only one race! —The Human Race! (Acts 17:26)

2. Since We Are Created in the Image of God—We Have Intrinsic Value

- a) Inherent, Essential Worth that Cannot Be Taken Away because it is from God

3. The Incredible Value of Human Life is NOT a Social Construct!

- a) Even the founders fathers knew our Rights are NOT from government but **from God**

4. But the Eternal Worth of Your Soul is Beyond Comprehension (Mk 8:36-37)

Your Soul is worth more than the Entire World!

II. UNIQUELY BROKEN

A. FALLEN

1. God Made a Wonderful Place for Humans To Live...

**He Gave Humans Everything They Needed for a Happy Fulfilling Life
But The Most Important Thing God Gave Them Was HIMSELF!**

- a) This Fact is Key to Understanding the World We Live In!
- b) Why We Are Created as Moral, Rational, Spiritual, Free-will beings
- c) Because Relationship w/ God—>Friendship w/ God Requires These Attributes

2. We are created in His Image as Moral, Rational, Spiritual, Relational Beings for a Relationship With Him—But to do so required free-will... —Even in the Paradise Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15–17)

3. Why Would God Have Place the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Paradise Garden of Eden?

- a) It Was Only 1 Law — and only 1 Moral Choice: Truth or a Lie—Good or Evil

4. WHY EVEN ALLOW THIS CHOICE?

**BECAUSE FREE-WILL CHOICE IS NECESSARY FOR LOVE...
—LOVE CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT FREE-WILL...**

- a) Without Free-will — It's Not Love—It's Coercion!
- b) As if we were robots, or puppets controlled by a puppet master—it's FAKE!

5. EXAMPLE: In the Old Days many Cultures Had Arranged Marriages...

- a) Your Parents Chose who you married.
- b) Which Took Away the Most Important Freedom: Freewill to choose

6. To Have a Loving Relationship or Friendship With God Requires Free-Will Or it's NOT Love—it's Something Else—but Not Love

- a) You Know the Rest of the Story... In Gen. 3 we discover an Intruder...
a Deceiver, a Tempter, an Assassin in Eden...
- b) a Spiritual Being Created by God who chose to rebel against God
and Lead others to rebel against God as well

B. BROKEN

- 1. What If You saw a Brand New Car that had just been totaled in an accident**
 - a) Would you look at that car and say: Why would the engineers design a car like that?
 - b) When God Created the World—It Was Good...
 - c) But When Sin Entered the World—the World Drastically Changed
- 2. When Sin Entered the Garden—> Death Entered the World
And the World Has Not Been the Same Since...**
 - a) They were forced out of Paradise and Separated from God and the Tree of Life
 - b) They had to live with the effects of sin and death in a Broken World
 - 1) —A New Emotion: FEAR**
 - 2) —A New Realization: NAKEDNESS;**
 - 3) —A New Consequence: SEPARATION from God**
 - 4) —A New Repercussion: CONDEMNATION from God.**
- 3. As a Result They Hid from God and were in Fear...**
 - a) And We Now Live with the Effects of Sin and Death in a Broken World
 - b) People Live in Fear, Weakness, Vulnerability, and in Dread of Condemnation
- 4. Free-will may be Most Powerful Gift—but also the most loving gift God gave us! Capable of Great Good — but Also Great Evil (Gen 6:5-6)**

“The widest thing in the universe is not space; it is the potential capacity of the human heart. Being made in the image of God, it is capable of almost unlimited extension in all directions. And one of the world’s greatest tragedies is that we allow our hearts to shrink until there is room in them for little besides ourselves” (A. W. Tozer).

C. LOST

- 1. Facing Reality we’re forced to Admit Something Terrible has gone wrong with this world—we call it the problem of evil...**
 - a) Yes, Mankind is Beautiful in a Unique Way among all of creation...
 - b) but Mankind is also Morbidly Broken —> Noble but also Cruel
 - c) And THIS is Why We Live in a Broken World...
- 2. These 2 Facts Are So Obvious that Any World-view must Account them...**
 - a) But Instead of Accounting for them—We Try to make Excuses for them
 - b) Some try to Blame SOCIETY—That Society that Has Failed Them...
 - c) Or a Lack of Education, or lack of Opportunity,
 - d) or Poverty, is the cause of Evil... or Lack of Self-Esteem...
- 3. No the Problem of Evil is Not due to poverty or a lack of education
The World is Broken Because We Are Broken...**
 - a) We Are Not Victims—we are the Victimizers
 - b) The Evil in the World is Not Out There—it is Within Us
- 4. We Are Guilty and We Know It**
 - a) Not Only Did We Scar other people with Our Sins—
—we Warped ourselves with the Guilt of our sins
 - b) We Have all Sinned and Fallen Short of the Glory of God (**Romans 3:10–18, 23**)

III. UNIQUELY LOVED

A. UNIQUELY CREATED, UNIQUELY BROKEN, BUT UNIQUELY LOVED

1. God Placed Mankind in a Perfect Paradise and Provided for all their needs
2. But the Greatest Gift He Gave them was Himself
3. Think of Eden as 1st Temple—Where You and God Could Be in Fellowship
4. But Sin Broke This **Relationship**—and separated us from God

B. BUT EVEN THOUGH WE WERE BROKEN, FALLEN, LOST SINNERS... GOD LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON TO RESCUE US

1. “For God” – the Greatest Being (John 3:16)
2. “So Loved” – the Greatest Measure
3. “The World” – the Greatest Need
4. “That He Gave” – the Greatest Grace
5. “His Only Begotten Son” – the Greatest Sacrifice
6. “That Whoever Believes on Him” – the Greatest Commitment
7. “Should Not Perish” – the Greatest Deliverance
8. “But Have Everlasting life” – the Greatest Hope

C. ONLY GOD CAN FIX WHAT IS BROKEN TO MAKE IT BEAUTIFUL AGAIN

1. There is a young woman we met in Scotland who walks the coastal beaches searching for broken glass...
 - a) Broken Glass that has been washed upon the rocks for so long that it becomes polished smooth — to become ‘Sea Glass’
2. She Makes Jewelry with this sea glass and includes a note with it...
 - a) Explaining how God can take something broken and discarded and useless
 - b) and make it beautiful and useful again!
 - c) This is What God Wants to Do For Us!

3. The World says you worthless... God says you have vast worth [LIST]

D. BUT IT REQUIRES A CHOICE BECAUSE LOVE REQUIRES A CHOICE

1. Without Free-Will there is no love because Love requires a choice
2. You Have a Choice to Make (**Deuteronomy 30:15–16 > 19-20**)

CONCLUSION:

Created in the Image of God to Love God with all our heart and be loved by God for all eternity

1. We Were Created in the Image of God to Become the Children of God
2. To Love God with all our heart and be loved by God for all eternity

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 6:23)