

## Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

What was it like before Adam and Eve sinned? Psalm 8:5 talks about man being crowned with glory and honor, but it was not a lasting honor (Psalm 49:2). I have often heard people say Adam was made perfect. For many years I would have said the same thing, but that's not the best word to describe Adam's state before the fall. Only God is truly perfect. He does not change in being, essence, attributes, decrees, or persons because God and His perfections are one. Adam and Eve were not perfect in the same way, but they weren't sinful (yet) either, so what were they? Some Latin phrases might be helpful here: *posse peccare* and *posse non peccare*, meaning (able to sin, and able not to sin). Augustine used these phrases to explain the state of Adam and Eve in the garden. It was possible for them to sin, but it was also possible for them not to sin. After the fall, Adam and his posterity became *non posse non peccare* (unable to avoid sin). Christians born of the Spirit become *posse non peccare* (able to not sin) once again. Although we do still struggle with sin, we are no longer slaves to it. And, on that final day when Christians enter into glory, we will become *non posse peccare* (not able to sin). Think about the changes that happen in a person's spiritual life. We are born into sin and are slaves to it. We are not able to not sin. Only by faith in Jesus Christ can our hearts be made new that we might live no longer for ourselves in sin but for God. We are able to not sin. Adam and Eve were made innocent, not perfect. But those who are in Christ look forward to the day when we will receive our glorified bodies to live eternally with Him and finally sin no more.

### Discussion Questions

- Which state would you say you are in and how do you know this?
- What would you say God is perfect means? Why are we not perfect?
- Pray for those that need to know Christ that he would bring salvation to them.

# Baptist Catechism Family Worship Guide



## West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023)

## Baptist Catechism Question #13

Q: How did God create man?

A: *God created man, male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.*

### Suggested Memory Verse

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (ESV)

### Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Do you know who was the first president? How about the first person to walk on the moon? There is something special about being the first person to do something. We like to say that those who come later are walking in their footsteps. The Bible talks about Adam as the very first man that God created. Even though the breath of life was given to him by God and Luke 3:38 refers to him as a “son of God,” still, he was made of very physical stuff. Dirt. Dust. Generation after generation, we have a very physical connection back to our first father, Adam. Acts 17:26 says God *made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth*. Because Adam was the very first man, all of us were born to walk in his footsteps. He is our official representative, and we are like him in more ways than we realize. 1 Corinthians 15:45-48 *The first man Adam became a living being... The first man was from the earth, a man of dust... As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust.*

#### Discussion Question

- Have you ever wanted to be the first at something? What? Why?
- Do you think Adam set a good example for the people who came after him? Why or why not?
- Why do you think the Bible refers to Jesus as “the second Adam”?

### Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Our society has become increasingly confused about gender and sex, but God is very clear. In the beginning, the Bible says God created mankind as male and female. Men and women are distinct, and the creation account highlights this. In fact, God actually gives a fair amount of detail to show us that men and women are not interchangeable. For one, they were created differently. Adam was made first from the dust of the ground. Eve was then fashioned from a rib of Adam. Although we might be tempted to think these are just minor details, the New Testament points back to them as significant. In 1 Timothy 2:13, Paul stresses the importance of Adam being made first, and in 1 Corinthians 11:8 he reminds the church that *man was not made from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man*. From the beginning, God intended Eve to be a helper fit for Adam and for their relationship with one another to point to the beautiful diversity and unity within the Godhead.

#### Discussion Questions

- In what ways have you seen people try to ignore or distort the distinctiveness of male and female?
- Have you ever been jealous of the other gender or wish God had made you differently?
- Can you be thankful today for the way God made you?

### Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

What do you see when you look in the mirror? An image of yourself, right? It reflects your various traits and shows what you look like. We can't see God, so what does it mean that we are made in the image of God? Scripture gives us some clues. Although we don't necessarily reflect what God *looks* like, in many ways we are a depiction of what He is like in character and essence. These include God's communicable traits, such as justice, grace, mercy, goodness, truthfulness, rational thought, creativity, and relationality. In these ways, God has made us like Him. Our existence is a testimony to all of creation as to what God is like. We are made in His image. Because of sin, though, we no longer reflect God's image accurately. Our justice is not like His justice. Our goodness is not like His goodness. Jesus alone “is the image of the invisible God” in the truest sense (Col. 1:15). By God's grace, those who are being renewed in Christ are also being conformed more perfectly to His image (Romans 8:29). Ephesians 4:24 calls Christians to *be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness*.

#### Discussion Questions

- Can you think of any other traits or characteristics that make us “like God”?
- Murder is destroying an “image bearer of God.” Why is this worse than killing an animal?
- How accurately does your life reflect the image of God? In what ways?

### Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

After God made Adam and Eve, He then placed them into the garden and gave them a role within it. One way they were to image God in the world was by exercising dominion over the creatures around them just as God exercises final dominion over all of creation. Psalm 8:6 *You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet*. This delegated authority means that mankind was given the task of representing God in this world as we take care of His creation. For Adam, it began with naming all of the animals, but it didn't stop there. Ever since then, people have been studying, naming, growing, cultivating, and making creative use of the plants and animals of the earth. It is both a blessing and a responsibility to care for God's creation as He does, not just in a global sense, but in our everyday interactions with the world around us. Bringing order and beauty out of chaos, and nurturing life wherever we find it are ways we can exercise dominion over God's creation in a way that reflects His nature.

#### Discussion Questions

- Do you have pets or maybe a garden? How do you help care for God's creation?
- How does God care for you?
- Why do you think God tasked man with naming the animals and exercising dominion over creation?