

Our accountability to God

When Adam and Eve sinned, God required each of them to give an account to Him for what they had done. They would also face punishment for their disobedience. (Gen. 3:11-19)

The Lord has given us His commandments both internally and externally and we are responsible to the Lord for our behavior. *"So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God...for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."* (Rom. 14:10-12)

At death our soul and spirit immediately leave our bodies and remain in a conscious state with all our senses (Luke 16:23-31) to await the resurrection of our bodies and the judgment. *"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."* (Heb. 9:27) (John 5:28,29) Everything will be judged. *"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."* (Eccl. 12:14) We will all be found guilty before God. The results of this judgment would be that everyone would receive eternal punishment for their sins and be *"cast into the lake of fire"* (Rev. 20:15) and suffer eternal torments.

God's provision for our salvation

God is just and holy and must punish every sin. God is also a God of love, mercy and grace. Right there, in the garden of Eden, before the guilty pair, God announced that He would provide a Saviour (Gen. 3:15) who would *"save his people from their sins."* (Matt. 1:21) That Saviour would be none other than Jesus Christ, God the Son. At the appointed time (Gal. 4:4) our Creator left heaven to take upon Himself a human body (John 1:1-3, 14) through the virgin birth. (Matt. 1:23) Being fully God and fully man He would live a sinless life. He allowed evil men to falsely accuse (Mark 14:56) scourge and crucify Him. (John 19:16-18) As He died on the cross, He was taking our place of punishment for our sins. *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed."* (1 Peter 2:24) (Isa. 53:3,6) He rose again from the dead three days later. (1 Cor. 15:4)

In order to have the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life we must first be born again. *"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* (John 3:3) The new birth (regeneration) is solely the work of God in which He gives us a new spiritual heart. (Ezek. 36:26,27) This act of God enables us to believe the gospel truths and believe on Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Salvation is by faith alone and not any human works. (Eph. 2:8,9) Salvation also involves repentance of sins. This involves recognizing the wickedness of our sins, sorrow for our rebellion against God, and a determination to forsake sins and to obey and serve God.

Our eternal purpose

God has given us a glimpse of our eternal activities. When we are born again we become "sons of God." (John 1:12) Upon our resurrection we will receive glorified bodies (Phi. 3:21) and be "heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ." (Rom. 8:17) We shall rule and reign with Christ (Rev. 5:10) judge men and angels. (1 Cor. 6:2,3)

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How a person sees himself "affects man's total outlook on life. It determines his view of the world, himself, and God, and regulates his life-style and conduct"

God, our Creator, through His inspired word, the Holy Bible, "presents man as a moral, and rational being created in the likeness and image of God." We are eternal beings. We will live forever either in heaven or hell and we are accountable to our Creator.

Mankind naturally rejects their Creator (Rom. 1:19-21) and His claims upon their lives. Because of this *"they became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools."* (Rom. 1:19-23) They imagine that man is nothing more than a "higher animal—a chance product of an unplanned process." This erroneous and degrading view of human life has caused multitudes to live ungodly and depraved life-styles, far below God's creative purposes. The destructive effect is seen everywhere in lawlessness, wars, murders, abortions, racism and suicides. The attitude of multitudes is *"eat and drink, for tomorrow we die"* (1 Cor. 5:32), gratifying the flesh in drugs, sex, alcohol and other fleshy pleasures.

Planned and created by God

Our Creator is a triune God. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all one God. (1 John 5:7) "The Father planned the work of creation, Jesus Christ, God the Son did the work (John 1:3) and God the Holy Spirit energized it." (2) Our Creator planned each of us before the foundation of the world. (Eph. 1:4) He determined who our parents would be, where and when we would be born (Acts 17:26) and even how long we would live. (Ps. 139:16) He determined if we should be male or female, our race, wise or foolish as well as our personal size appearance, intelligence, and disposition. Even our imperfections were planned by God. (Ex. 4:11) He gave us abilities and interests so that some would be mechanics, farmers, doctors, fireman, teachers, through which we may serve the Lord in gainful employment to provide for ourselves, our families, those in need and meet the needs of our community and nation in which we live. We must recognize our God given abilities in relationship to His creative purposes for us and develop and use these abilities to the greatest potential to His glory and honor.

God has created each of us. *"Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves."* (Ps. 100:3) At God's appointed time, He was involved in our conception. That is why each of us is a unique individual differing even from our own brothers and sisters of the same parents with our own fingerprints, DNA, voice patterns, texture of hair, etc.

Biology Professor W. Michael Gray, Ph.d says this, " God does indeed superintend in some way the conception of each individual. Certainly it is scientifically respectable then to say each person is genetically unique." In the reproductive process the possible genetic combinations of mother and father are at least 64 trillion and God determines which one of these combinations a person will be. "Scripture (the Bible) is clear that we are not a statistical accident." *"Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect (unformed)."* (Ps. 139:16)

We are created in the *"image and likeness"* of God (Gen. 1:26-27) *"a little lower than the angels"* (Ps. 14:6) and *"he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things."* (Acts 17:25) We are eternal beings with a body, soul, and spirit (1 Thess. 5:23) and we will live forever either in heaven or hell. We are created with amazing mental abilities however because of sin everyone is limited in the full use of his intelligence. We are of great value. *"For what shall it profit a man, if he should gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"* (Mark 8:36)

Why God created us.

God is sovereign and all powerful and things don't just happen by chance. He had a very good reason for creating each of us otherwise He could have easily overlooked that one in 64 trillion possibility. We are part of His eternal plan.

Adam and Eve our first parents walked and talked with their Creator in the garden of Eden and we are created to know our Creator on a personal basis. The famous Westminster catechism statement is "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him for ever." God has spoken directly to us through the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16) and given us instructions as to how we are to live. The 10 Commandments are written in the hearts of every human being. (Rom. 2:14,15) In addition, Moses received them directly from God on tablets of stone (Ex. 24:12), written with the finger of God. (Ex. 31:18) God also spoke them to the Israelites at Mount Sinai. They are recorded in Ex. 20:1-17, and Deut. 5:6-21 and mentioned throughout the Old and New Testaments. Jesus summarized them saying, *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."* (Matt. 22:36-38)

We are to glorify God (2 Cor. 10:31), worship Him (Rev. 14:7), obey Him (Eccl. 12:13), live holy lives (Romans 8:25) and serve Him (Ps. 100:2), and do good works. (Titus 2:14)

Spiritual fall of mankind

God created Adam and Eve upright (Eccl. 7:29) capable of doing all that the Lord required of them. He gave them a simple test of their willingness to obey Him. *"Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* (Gen. 2:16,17)

Satan tempted Eve to disbelieve and disobey God's words. Adam and Eve willingly and deliberately rebelled against God's command and ate of the forbidden fruit. At that moment they died spiritually, became separated from God and they began to die physically. Sin had now entered the world. *"Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."* (Rom. 5:12)

We acquire this sin nature at conception (Ps. 51:5) We are thoroughly corrupted by sin. "...Evil has contaminated every aspect of our humanity—our heart, mind, personality, emotions, conscience, motives and will."

God's rule of obedience is the 10 Commandments and God demands perfect obedience, at all times, in thought, word, deed and motive. Our sin nature keeps us from doing the things that God requires of us. *"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness (lewdness), an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."* (Mark 7:21-23) The outward manifestation of this is 17 evil works of the flesh. (Gal. 5:19-21) In addition we are also under the influence of Satan. (1 John 5:19)

God's knowledge of us

Being that God planned each of us before the foundation of the world and then created us at His appointed time, it naturally follows that He would know all about us. Although there are now 6 billion people on the earth, God has complete knowledge of every human being both inward and outward.

Psalm 139:1-16 gives us the details of God's knowledge of us. He knows our actions, words, and thoughts. He even sees everything we do in the dark and even the hairs of our head are numbered. (Matt. 10:30) He is well aware of the good and the evil that we do and He keeps records on these things. (Rev. 20:12)