

# Christian Beliefs

## Doctrine of Humanity

### Section 1—Doctrine

#### Crosspointe Community Church—statement of faith

**Humanity--** *We believe that humans were created by God in his own image; that they sinned and thereby incurred physical, spiritual, and eternal death, which is separation from God; that as a consequence, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by choice and therefore under condemnation. We believe that God created humans as male and female and ordained marriage to be a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman. (Gen.1:27–28; Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23; Matt. 19:4–6)*

#### I. Creation of Man

##### a. Purpose for creation—Rev. 4:11

*“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”*

##### b. Humanity’s purpose in life—I Cor. 10:31

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God*

##### c. Image bearer (Imago Dei) -value not on performance, but being--identity

###### i. Represents—relational—Gen. 1:27

*So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.*

###### ii. Simplify—“Man is in some way like God” BUT man is NOT God!

###### iii. Fall distorted but not destroyed

###### iv. Redemption—Progressing to restore image (Rom. 8:29)

*For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

###### v. Christ’s return—full recovery

##### d. Aspects of image (possible)

###### i. Reflects the triune God—unity in diversity—marriage, church, relationships (single or married)

###### ii. Moral accountability

###### iii. Conscience

###### iv. Immaterial spirits

###### v. Relation to God as spirit

###### vi. Immortal

###### vii. Reason

###### viii. Abstract thought

###### ix. Sense of eternity

###### x. Enjoy beauty, creativity—aesthetics

###### xi. Emotions

###### xii. Social/relational

###### xiii. Marriage—Man + Woman = One flesh until death (Matt:19:4-6; I Cor. 7:39)

###### xiv. Ruler of creation

## II. Man as Male and Female (Gen 1:27)

- a. Personal relationships—reflects trinity
  - i. **Married**—reflects Christ and the church  
*For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.*
  - ii. **Singles**—live in unity in the body of Christ—church—I Cor. 7:35-35  
*And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. <sup>35</sup> I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.*
- b. **Equal in personhood and importance** (Gal. 3:27-28)  
*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave<sup>tal</sup> nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.*
- c. **Differences in roles** (Eph. 5)—even before fall
  - i. Adam created first
  - ii. Eve helper
  - iii. Adam named Eve
  - iv. Adam represents the world
  - v. Others--

## III. Essential nature of man

- a. 3 views
  - i. Trichotomy—body, soul, spirit—I Thess. 5:23
  - ii. Dichotomy—material and immaterial—Lk. 1:46-47
  - iii. Monism—Man is a unity
- b. Immaterial part can exist outside of the body—Lk. 23:43
- c. Origin of the soul
  - i. Creationism—God creates soul at the beginning of life—Ps. 127:3
  - ii. Traduceanism—Souls come from union of man and woman—Gen. 1:28; Heb. 7:10
    - 1. Virgin conception—not a new person
    - 2. Abortion

## IV. Biblical overview of redemptive story of mankind

Sons of God—see chart at the end of the handout

## V. Sin

- a. **Definition** —“Any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude or nature.” Grudem—Rom. 3:23

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

### b. Origin of sin

- i. Angels—after day 6 and before Gen. 3—2 Pet. 2:4
- ii. Man—Adam and Eve—Gen. 3

### c. Inherited sin—(original sin)

- i. Federal headship—we sinned in Adam (representative)—Rom. 5:19  
*For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.*
- ii. We inherited a sin nature (Ps. 51:5)  
*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

### d. Total depravity

- i. Romans 1-3—unable to save ourselves
- ii. Issues
  1. Babies sinners—Ps. 51:5
- iii. Degrees of sin
  1. Legal—all sin is the same—separates us from God- (Gen. 2:17)  
but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat<sup>a</sup> of it you shall surely die.”
  2. Practical—degrees (Jn. 19:11, Matt. 11:22)  
*But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you.*
  3. Unpardonable sin—Matt. 12:31-32
    - a. Conscious, malicious and willful rejection and slander against the evidence and conviction of the testimony of the Holy Spirit respecting the grace of God in Christ attributing it out of hatred and enmity to the Prince of Darkness...in committing that sin, man willfully, maliciously, and intentionally attributes what is clearly recognized as the work of God to the influence and operation of Satan.”

## Section 2—Practicing the doctrine of humanity

### 1. Identity

- i. Not what you do or accomplish—so do not be a “work aholic”
  - ii. Love those considered less in some societies—poor, weak, ill, gender, ethnicity—God sees them as image—they are not less in value to God or to others.
  - iii. Appreciate how God has made us all unique and embrace his plan for our sex, gender ethnicity, physical appearance, personality, environment etc. Allow him to be the center of our lives—not me—beware of body image fads, etc.
2. We **flourish** in life when we live to God’s glory as revealed in His Word
  3. **Justice**—treat others as God would have you—love and just—in parenting, employer etc.—Eph. 5. All humans are created in the image of God. Applies to unborn babies, defenseless children and others that some may abuse.
  4. **Respect**—Eph. 4—“Be kind to one another, tender hearted forgiving one another..”
  5. The makeup of humans is **complex**—material and immaterial. In life humans should strive to care for all aspects of our living—physical and spiritual. In helping others we should be sensitive to the complexity of human life and strive to
  6. **Sexuality**—God created humans for sexual intimacy exclusively between a married man and woman. This reflects the triune God who is ultimate unity in diversity God forgives sin, but it requires repentance
  7. **Single people** are to be honored and an important part of the body of Christ
  8. **Sin** is real and must be acknowledged
  9. All are sinners
    - a. It separates us from God
    - b. It is the biggest human problem
    - c. Sin is a matter of the heart—Romans 7
    - d. It results in death
    - e. overcoming sin is a constant battle—Romans 6

### Discussion questions:

1. Why is it such a big deal to believe that God created humans in his image? What aspects of image to you appreciate in others and in yourself?
2. Where have you seen humans not treated as God’s image? What can we do when we see that evil happen?
3. How does the doctrine of humanity help you to think of other that are not like you—maybe different personalities or ethnicities or genders or hard people to appreciate?
4. The verse that says we are to “do all to the glory of God” is easy to say and hard to do. How can you do that when you eat, drink, work, do school, play etc. Give some practical suggestions
5. How should the church handle the current sexual confusion in our society with the LGBTQ+ movements etc.
6. Sin is an important doctrine from the Bible. How have you found victory over sin issues (you do not need to be explicit)? How have you encouraged others in their battle against sin?

# "Son" in the Bible

- Gen. 3:15—seed of woman

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring<sup>1</sup> and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

Gen. 12:1-3—Abraham

I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Then you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son—Ex. 4:22

Ps. 89:27—David

And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

Is. 9:6—Messiah

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon<sup>1</sup> his shoulder, and his name shall be called<sup>2</sup> Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Matt. 3:17-Jesus' baptism

and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son,<sup>1</sup> with whom I am well pleased.

Gal. 4:4-7—Believers

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,<sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.<sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"<sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Rev. 21:7—Believers forever

The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

