

What Christians believe about:

HUMANITY & SIN

Sermon Structure

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

1. Sin is everywhere and effects us every day.
2. Humans are the reason sin is here on Earth and are the ones who continue doing sin.
3. This is not the way it was meant to be!

THREE POINTS TO REMEMBER

A. Humanity was created good (Genesis 1.26-27, 31):

- a. Humanity was created by God *in his image* and therefore is very good.
- b. "Image" language is tough to understand.
 - i. Genesis 5.3 helps, "Adam fathered a son in his own likeness after his image..."
 - ii. Being made in God's image has a lot more to do with being *like* him than not (physical, emotional, spiritual, social, etc.)
 1. God's greatness (glory) is certainly in view
 2. Illustration: parents
 - iii. We're made *good*—we can't ever forget this!
 1. As soon as you do, you'll start thinking and acting like those around you, who've forgotten they bear the glory of God.

B. Humanity's goodness is warped by evil (Romans 3.23):

- a. Definition of Sin is "the state of having fallen from the glory of God."
 - L This is a *state* not an action.
 - ii. It's the disposition/orientation of our hearts
- b. Sin oppresses the glory of God in us
 - L If as sinners we fall short of his glory, then before we sinned we bore his glory in us!
us.
 - ii. Sin's entire goal in humans is to mar the greatness/glory of God.

Why? Because to destroy God's greatness in us is to insult God himself.

- iii. Sin destroys God's image and offends God—we can't ever forget!
 1. As soon as you do, you'll take sin lightly just like everyone around you.

C. Humanity can be good again (2 Cor 3.18):

- a. As Christians, our goal in life is to become more truly human (be re-created as God's image) by orienting ourselves to the glory of God in the gospel.
 - i. 2 Corinthians 3.18 says, "we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. This comes from the Lord..."
 - ii. Moses' story from Ex 34 ... like him, we're changed from one degree of greatness to another.
 - iii. "Beholding the glory of the Lord" is re-orienting ourselves toward Jesus.
 - iv. Like with Moses, spending time with God will change how we're made.
 - v. Illustration: Acts 4.13, Peter and John were recognized as having been with Jesus.
- b. Redemption: restoring our true humanity (that is, God's glory in us) through the gospel.
 - i. Steady eradication of sin
 - ii. Slow-but-sure reorientation of our lives from evil back to Christ

TAKING THIS HOME TONIGHT...

- We've established a tension here:
 - We bear the image of God.
 - Yet sin has marred this image.
 - By his death and resurrection, Jesus is recreating this image. But the process is slow.
- Life will have that "something's missing" feeling this side of heaven.
 - We can pacify it with food, relationships, TV, football, alcohol...but we'll still feel unsatisfied.
 - Psalm 90.14, "Satisfy us in the morning!"
 - Soak yourself in the truth of the gospel.
Fight to be truly human by loving and being satisfied in Jesus.