

## CreConf 3 Lesson 2: Creation & Sin – Sept 25

Fall 2024; Instructor: Michael Bromley

**Objectives:** Connect Creation with God’s act of love & existence of evil and sin

**Opening prayer:** John 1 & “Lord, Open our Eyes” prayer

**Warmup:** Hand in homework due (“prior knowledge” vocab)

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The Word of the Lord, [Jn 13:34](#):

***“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.”***

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### I. The Road to Emmaus (after the Resurrection; [Lk 24:13-35](#))

*Jesus himself drew near ... but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him ... With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him*

### II. Creation (Genesis)

- Creation glorifies God
- God created the world out of love, destined for perfection ([CCC 302](#); see diff. w/ other religions)
- Therefore, the highest glorification of God is to love God -- freely chosen:

“The Great Commandment: In Deuteronomy ( <a href="#">Dt: 6:5</a> ):	<i>Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength.</i>
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- Robots... *can’t think, can’t choose, can’t love, only do as told, have no free will*
- God gave us **Free Will** (“choice”; “will” = to wish, desire, be)
  - In order that we choose to freely love him
- The problem for us:
  - That means we can NOT choose him
  - the existence of “good” requires the existence of evil (see [CCC 309, 311-12](#))

### III. What is sin?

Sin is Separation from God	<i>“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters”</i> ( <a href="#">Mt 12:30</a> )
Sin is an offense against God	see <a href="#">CCC 1871</a>
Sin is violation of one’s own conscience	<i>“So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, it is a sin”</i> ( <a href="#">Jas 4:17</a> )

- Jesus extends ([Lk 17:10](#); see also [Mt 18:6-7](#)):

*“Things that cause sin will inevitably occur, but woe to the person through whom they occur.”*

- Sin definitions:
  - Sin is a personal act and is “contrary to reason” ([CCC 1872](#))
  - To commit a sin, the act must be done knowingly and willfully ([CCC 1873](#))
  - capital sin: “engender” (facilitate lead to) other sins
  - mortal sin: a grave (deadly) infraction of the law of God; mortal sin requires three conditions: 1) grave matter; 2) full knowledge of the evil committed; 3) consent of the will
  - venial sin: does not destroy divine life, but “diminishes and wounds it” ([CCC 1866](#))
  - vice: behavior that leads to sin; vices are the opposite of the virtues they oppose (pride, avarice, envy, wrath, lust, gluttony, and sloth (or “acedia”))

#### IV. Adam & Eve, Sin and the Fall

- [Gn 3](#) “Expulsion from Eden”
  - which tree? “the tree of knowledge of good and evil” ([Gn 2:9](#))  
*Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; ([Gn 3:7](#))*
- Sin = separation from God = death
  - Adam and Eve sinned and became mortal ([Gn 3:19](#))
- The sins of Adam and Eve:

“The Threefold Sins” of Adam & Eve ( <a href="#">Gn 3:5-6</a> )	
<i>Sins of the eyes</i>	Good to look at (“the tree was ... pleasing to the eyes”)
<i>Sins of the flesh</i>	Good to eat (“the tree was good for food”)
<i>Sins of pride</i>	Will make like God (“tree was.. desirable for gaining wisdom”)

- Concupiscence: our “inclination to sin” (CCC 1264)
- Pride: undue self-esteem that puts oneself in competition with God ([CCC 1866](#))
- Idolatry: putting something ahead of God

#### V. Why does God punish sin?

- It only hurts ourselves
  - God doesn’t need to act, we do it because sin is its own punishment
  - extend the sin to the consequence (pick any... it’s too easy)
  - God’s “blessings” reward us for the right, his “curses” correct us for the wrong
- It leads to “slavery to sin”
  - “By refusing God's plan of love, [man who freely sinned] deceived himself and became a slave to sin” ([CCC 1739](#); see [Rom 6:6](#))

#### VI. If sin is separation God, then how do we get back w God?

- God loves his creation (us) & offers us ways to make our way back to Eden:
  - “Edenic Covenant” = marriage and children ([Gn 1:28](#) & [3:20](#))
  - “The Law” = how to live without sin (Ten Commandments)
  - “repentance” = regret & make good
  - “atonement” = “at” + “one” = “at one” = make one with God, i.e. *forgiveness of sins*
    - how? through sacrifices:
      - = giving up something of value; the greater the value the greater the sacrifice
      - “Your lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish.” ([Ex 12:5](#))
    - the ultimate sacrifice = Jesus Christ on the Cross
    - what if there was no Jesus?
      - we’d all die in sin, all die in separation from God
      - Jesus had to die for us, so that our sins can die with him

#### VII. The Cross

- “Jesus” = “God saves”
- “Christ” = the “Messiah” = “the Anointed One” = “the mission”
- We must ask ourselves:

<i>What is the Christ’s mission?</i>	to save us
<i>Save us from what?</i>	from sin
<i>Why?</i>	because we can’t save ourselves
<i>How?</i>	dying on the cross

[A note on “solo fide” : “faith alone” will not save us. We must believe (faith) AND act on our beliefs (works)]

- Forgiveness through the body and blood of Christ

<i>Christ died for whose sins?</i>	all of ours, from Adam & Eve through the end of creation
<i>Which sins?</i>	every sin, past, present, future
<i>When did he suffer our sins?</i>	now and forever
<i>How do we relieve Jesus of the pain we cause him?</i>	by not sinning (every sin we don't commit is one less sin paid for by Christ on the Cross)

- Why did Christ have to die?
  - Isn't he God? How does that help us?
  - Jesus had to be mortal in order to pay and die for our sins
    - The “hypostatic union” (or “God-man”)
  - See Isaiah 53 ([Is 53:5](#))

Jesus explains:

- [Lk 24:26](#) (“Road to Emmaus”)

*Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer\* these things and enter into his glory?”*

- [Mk 8:31-33](#):

*He began to teach them that the Son of Man\* must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly.*

*Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.*

*At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”*

### **VIII. Christ on how to avoid sin**

- See handout