

Humanity: Created, Fallen, and in Need of Redemption

Introduction: The Restoration That Went Wrong

In 2012, a woman named Cecilia Giménez tried to fix a painting of Jesus in a church in Spain. The painting was very old and had started to wear away. Cecilia wanted to help, so she painted over it. But she was not trained in art, and the result looked very strange. It made people laugh, but it also made them sad. Something beautiful had been damaged even more by someone trying to fix it without the right skills.

This story helps us understand the human condition. God made people very good—His special creation. But sin came into the world and damaged that image. Like Cecilia, we try to fix ourselves through good behavior or hard work. But without God, we only make things worse. We need help from the One who made us. Only He can restore what is broken.

I. Created in the Image of God

In Genesis 1:26–27, we read that God made humans in His own image. This means we are not accidents. God made us on purpose and gave us a special place in creation. We are made to reflect who He is in some way.

Being made in God's image means we are created for relationships, for doing what is right, and for taking care of the world. Every human life has value and is important—not because of what we do, but because of who made us. Even though we are not like God in every way, we show some of His goodness through how we live, love, and care.

II. Corrupted by Sin

But something went wrong. In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve disobeyed God. This was the first sin. They listened to a lie and chose to trust themselves instead of God. This brought sin and death into the world.

Now all people are born with sin. We are not sinners just because we do wrong things—we do wrong things because sin is in our hearts. This is called total depravity. It doesn't mean we are as bad as we can be, but that every part of us is affected by sin. We cannot fix this by ourselves. We need God to rescue us.

III. Marred Yet Meaningful

Even though we are broken by sin, we still have value. The Bible says we are still made in God's image. God still sees us as important and wants to restore us. Every person, no matter what they have done, still matters to God.

We are not junk to throw away. We are like a broken treasure that is still loved. God wants to fix and renew His image in us. That's why we speak up for others, care for life, and seek justice—because people still reflect God.

IV. Redeemed by Grace

The good news is that God did not leave us in our broken state. He sent Jesus to save us. Ephesians 2 says we were dead in sin, but God made us alive through Jesus. This is not because we earned it, but because God is full of love and mercy.

Salvation is a gift. It is not about trying harder or being good enough. It is about trusting what Jesus did for us. He took our punishment, and now we can be made new. God's grace does not just forgive—it changes us. He starts fixing the image that was broken by sin. This is the hope Christians believe in: that one day, God will finish what He started and make us fully new.

Bible references: Genesis 1:26–27

Bible references: Genesis 3:1–7, Romans 5:12, Ephesians 2:1–3, Romans 3:10–12

Bible references: Genesis 9:6, James 3:9, Psalm 8:4–6

Bible references: Ephesians 2:1–9, Romans 5:8, Titus 3:3–7