Creation and the Fall (Part 1)

Creation of Human Beings

Look at Genesis 1:26-31, "Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”"

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

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”

God created the world and everything in it. When the world was created, it meant that the world is not eternal. What has a beginning must have an end. God who created the world will end the world in the future.

Look at verses 26-27, “Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

What was the purpose of God creating humans? He created humans to live a life that is worthy of God's image. More specifically, He created humans to live a life that reveals the image of God. God accomplishes this purpose. God is the beginning and the end. God finishes what he has begun.

We see the same approach to creation in the gospel. After feeding the 5000, Jesus did not throw away the leftovers. God, who made us in the image of God, does not cease until that image is realized in our lives. Humans have distorted the image of God through the Fall. Now, for those who believe, the image of God must be restored. The restoration of this image is called the history of salvation, and the process of sanctification. That is why God, the Creator,
becomes the Redeemer. He is the Redeemer who restores the image of what He created. He who started will finish His work. Look at Philippians 1:6, “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

What can we realize from all this?

Who is God? Our Creator and our Father.
Who am I? I am a child of God that was created by God.
What is our relationship with God? It must be a relationship between parent and children.
How are we to live? In the same way that children resemble their parents, we resemble and reveal our Creator, God.
How should I live? I must rely on God who helps me.

Human Corruption

God created and blessed humans in His image. However, humans want to live by their own judgment rather than living in obedience to God's Word. They do what they like and wish to live out their own will. Such human disobedience and indulgence are revealed as the problem of good and evil.

Look at 3:1-6. The temptation of Eve happened in four steps.

1) 3:1 (Doubt) - The enemy puts doubt on the Word of God. “Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?” Then Eve's memory becomes unclear. Look at 2:17, “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” He adds to what is not in God's Word, and this adds uncertainty. Impurities are put into the pure and complete Word of God. It should be remembered that the Fall began with doubt.

2) 3:4 (Negation) - After that, the enemy strongly denies the word of God. “But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die.’” Eve is shaken by the enemy’s determined tone and words. We must know God's Word clearly, and our faith and heart must be strong. Isaiah 26:3 says, “You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.” When we deny God's Word, we fall into a deep pit.

3) 3:5 (Impulse) - Now that the atmosphere is ripe, the enemy begins to trigger impulsion. He distorts the good will of God, and inserts the negative thought that God is not good. He paints the false picture that God is a selfish God. You have to stop believing and buying into bad things quickly. You shouldn't listen. Unfortunately, Eve keeps listening to this point. Now, the Word of God disappears from Eve's heart, and the enemy’s terrible temptations begin to convince her. We now enter the final stage of corruption.
4) **3:6 (Result)** - Once Eve's eyes are darkened, she looks at the tree of good and evil with dark eyes. Now it really seems to be just as the enemy said. The woman falls before the temptation and eats the fruit. She then gives it to her husband to eat. We have to remember that sin has continuity. Sin never ceases and has the ability to reproduce and spread. It is the habit of sin that sticks persistently so that you cannot quit after starting. What starts innocently can become an addiction. Sinners also tend to take a colleague with them. We must be aware and recognize the temptations of the enemy and the many pitfalls of sin.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why did God create human beings?

2. What is the first part of Eve’s temptation? How does the enemy bring this about?

3. What is the second part of Eve’s temptation? How can we avoid being shaken by the enemy?

4. What is the third part of Eve’s temptation? What is the false picture of God that the enemy makes?

5. How might we apply the teachings of this week’s FNF and/or bible readings to our lives?