



## Lesson 5: Creation and Morality

### Sabbath's Lesson

***16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it. For in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die."***

Did God tell our 1<sup>st</sup> parents that He would kill them for eating the forbidden fruit?? Did He tell them they would immediately keel over dead?? Or, was He telling them something about how His government functions, and how they were made in relationship to that government??

The lesson speaks of "Human rights". Do humans have any rights?? Are not "rights" based on some form of government?? Does God's government grant humans rights or privileges?? Or both?? Or neither?? Do the differences between imposed vs natural laws give us any clarity with regard to human rights??

Is it our "right" to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves?? Is it our privilege?? Or, is it the foundation of life itself??

Let's review some Laws:

1. The Law of Love – The Cornerstone of God's government. All of the following laws are an expression of the Law of Love.
2. Physical Laws – Gravity, Thermodynamics, Momentum, Motion, Chemical Laws.
3. Health Laws – Healthy diet, plenty of water, exercise, fresh air, 7-8 hrs sleep, etc. Note: Health laws are intimately linked to physical laws.
4. Worship Laws – By beholding, we become changed.
5. Law[s] of Liberty – Love cannot exist without freedom / liberty.

Do we have any "rights" under these sets of Laws??

**Where do humans get their "moral compass" from??** Answer this question, and you will have a powerful argument against the religion of evolution.

Search "Evolution of morality" sometime, and see what you come up with. I found the results dizzying.

If, as the humanist, would have us believe, morality has evolved over millions of years, doesn't that invalidate the theory of evolution itself?? If survival of the fittest is the "norm", than morality has no



place to exist. Human's moral code is a pillar to support our being made in the image of a loving, intelligent Creator.

### Sunday's Lesson – Dependence on the Creator

Consider the type of Creator we have. One powerful enough to speak our solar system into existence, yet loving/caring enough to kneel down and form man [with our infinitely complex systems – skeletal, muscular, nervous, circulatory, endocrine, lymphatic, reproductive, digestive, integumentary] from dirt, and woman from his flesh.

It stands to reason that a designer that installs so much complexity in to a creation would have recommended methods [rules] for operation, and that deviations from those recommendations would cause damage [in some cases, irreparable].

Consider the following passage from PP. This gives us some perspective on how dependent we are on our Creator.

The Levites, in their hymn recorded by Nehemiah, sang, “Thou, even Thou, art Lord alone; Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things therein, ... and Thou *preservest* them all.” **Nehemiah 9:6**. As regards this world, God's work of creation is completed. For “the works were finished from the foundation of the world.” **Hebrews 4:3**. *But His energy is still exerted in upholding the objects of His creation. It is not because the mechanism that has once been set in motion continues to act by its own inherent energy that the pulse beats and breath follows breath; but every breath, every pulsation of the heart, is an evidence of the all-pervading care of Him in whom “we live, and move, and have our being.” Acts 17:28. It is not because of inherent power that year by year the earth produces her bounties and continues her motion around the sun. The hand of God guides the planets and keeps them in position in their orderly march through the heavens. He “bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth.” Isaiah 40:26.* It is through His power that vegetation flourishes, that the leaves appear and the flowers bloom. He “maketh grass to grow upon the mountains” (**Psalm 147:8**), and by Him the valleys are made fruitful. “All the beasts of the forest ... seek their meat from God,” and every living creature, from the smallest insect up to man, is daily dependent upon His providential care. In the beautiful words of the psalmist, “These wait all upon Thee.... That Thou givest them they gather: Thou openest Thine hand, they are filled with good.” **Psalm 104:20, 21, 27, 28**. His word controls the elements; He covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth. “He giveth snow like wool: He scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes.” **Psalm 147:16**. “When He uttereth His voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and He causeth the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of His treasures.” **Jeremiah 10:13**. {PP 115.1}

### Monday's Lesson – In the Image of God.



We have discussed, many times, what it means to be created in the image of God. Is there anything new we can discover??

We were given the gift of creation / reproduction. So were the mammals, birds, fish, insects, etc.

We were given dominion over the animals. Why?? What makes man so very different?? [see below].

Though formed from the dust, Adam was “the son of God.” {PP 44.3}

He was placed, as God’s representative, over the lower orders of being. They cannot understand or acknowledge the sovereignty of God, yet they were made capable of loving and serving man. The psalmist says, “Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet: ... the beasts of the field; the fowl of the air, ... and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.” Psalm 8:6-8. {PP 45.1}

Man was to bear God’s image, both in outward resemblance and in character. Christ alone is “the express image” (Hebrews 1:3) of the Father; but man was formed in the likeness of God. His nature was in harmony with the will of God. **His mind was capable of comprehending divine things. His affections were pure; his appetites and passions were under the control of reason.** He was holy and happy in bearing the image of God and in perfect obedience to His will. {PP 45.2}

As man came forth from the hand of his Creator, he was of lofty stature and perfect symmetry. His countenance bore the ruddy tint of health and glowed with the light of life and joy. Adam’s height was much greater than that of men who now inhabit the earth. Eve was somewhat less in stature; yet her form was noble, and full of beauty. The sinless pair wore no artificial garments; they were clothed with a covering of light and glory, such as the angels wear. So long as they lived in obedience to God, this robe of light continued to enshroud them.

Consider this passage:

Our first parents, though created innocent and holy, were not placed beyond the possibility of wrongdoing. God made them free moral agents, capable of appreciating the wisdom and benevolence of His character and the justice of His requirements, and with full liberty to yield or to withhold obedience. They were to enjoy communion with God and with holy angels; but before they could be rendered eternally secure, their loyalty must be tested. **At the very beginning of man’s existence a check was placed upon the desire for self-indulgence, the fatal passion that lay at the foundation of Satan’s fall.** The tree of knowledge, which stood near the tree of life in the midst of the garden, was to be a test of the obedience, faith, and love of our parents. While permitted to eat freely of every other tree, they were forbidden to taste of this, on pain of death. They were also to be exposed to the temptations of Satan; but if they endured the trial, they would finally be placed beyond his power, to enjoy perpetual favor with God. {PP 48.4}

**God placed man under law, as an indispensable condition of his very existence. He was a subject of the divine government, and there can be no government without law. God might have created man without the power to transgress His law; He might have withheld the hand of Adam from touching the forbidden fruit; but in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a mere automaton.** Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. There could have been no development of character. Such a course would have been contrary to God’s plan in dealing with the inhabitants of other worlds. **It would have been unworthy of man as an intelligent being, and would have sustained Satan’s charge of God’s arbitrary rule.** {PP 49.1}



The lesson references Gen 9:6. *Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God made He man.*

Is this God's ideal for humanity, or was He warning humans of consequences of certain behaviors??

James 3:9 points out the hypocrisy of blessing God's name, and cursing man [made in God's image] with the same mouth.

## Tuesday's Lesson – Made of One Blood

I have found it disturbing to consider that Adam/Eve's immediate offspring produced offspring of their own [very incestuous], however, when we consider we all have the same DNA as Adam & Eve did, aren't we still brothers and sisters?? Doesn't scripture refer to us being "related" many times??

The lesson makes an excellent point: "If we ever needed proof of how far fallen we are, of how badly sin has damaged us, we have it in the sad fact that humans often treat one another worse than some people treat animals."

Have you ever watched a man get killed in a movie, and not flinch, but feel horrified when a horse falls to the ground, or a dog gets hurt?? I am ashamed to admit, I have.

## Wednesday's Lesson – The Character of our Creator

Matt. 5:43-48. <sup>43</sup> *"Ye have heard that it hath been said, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy.'<sup>44</sup> But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you,<sup>45</sup> that ye may be the children of your Father who is in Heaven. For He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.<sup>46</sup> For if ye love them that love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same?<sup>47</sup> And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so?<sup>48</sup> Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father who is in Heaven is perfect.*

Luke 10:25-37. <sup>25</sup> And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"<sup>26</sup> He said unto him, "What is written in the law? How readest thou?"<sup>27</sup> And he answering said, "'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself.'<sup>28</sup> And He said unto him, "Thou hast answered right; this do, and thou shalt live."<sup>29</sup> But he, wanting to justify himself, said unto Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"<sup>30</sup> And Jesus answering said, "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his raiment and wounded him and departed, leaving him half dead.<sup>31</sup> And by chance there came down a certain priest that way. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.<sup>32</sup> And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him and passed by on the other side.<sup>33</sup> But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was. And when he saw him he had compassion on him,<sup>34</sup> and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.<sup>35</sup> And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host and said unto



him, "Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again I will repay thee."<sup>36</sup> Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves?"<sup>37</sup> And he said, "He that showed mercy on him." Then said Jesus unto him, "Go and do thou likewise."

What do these passages tell us about the character of our Creator, and how we are to represent His image??

### **Thursday's Lesson – Morality and Accountability.**

The lesson seems to revert back to a "penal substitution" model here. How is morality & accountability linked?? How are life and breathing linked?? Conventional Christianity would have us believe we are either rewarded for doing/saying the "right" things, or punished for doing/saying the "wrong" things. The lesson states: "The difference between the two groups in Jesus' parable [ref. Matt 25:31-40 – sheep/goats] is how each person treated those who were in need."

Is that the *fundamental* difference?? Might there be some deeper difference?? What if He had said the healthy come stand on My right, and the sick stand on My left?? What is the decision Jesus makes, based upon??

ON WHETHER WE ARE A LAMB OR A GOAT, HEALTHY OR SICK. It's not some arbitrary decision made based on our behaviors. It's a DIAGNOSIS of our condition. The behaviors [right or wrong] are signs and symptoms of health or illness. The wicked [sick] would be miserable in heaven, where love is the Law. God in love, mercy, truth, and justice, gives them up to their condition and wishes.