

So far the doctrinal statements we are studying are roughly parallel. We examined the following doctrines:

1. The Bible
2. God – the Trinity
 - a. The Father
 - b. The Son
 - c. The Holy Spirit

At this point the statements vary their approach to the subjects. We are at a point in the logic of theology where our own statement is lacking a key point: Creation. That is where we turn next.

Our Statement

Only a brief reference in the doctrine of God:

We believe in one true living God who exists eternally in three Persons. They are equally perfect and they execute distinct yet harmonious offices in the work of **creation**, redemption, and providence.

The FBFI Statement

Section 5. Man: We believe that man was created directly by God on day six of the creation week (Gen 1.26-31), in His image (Jas 3.9), and in a state of sinlessness (Eph 4.24). We believe that originally man freely chose to transgress the will of God, and thereby, incurred sin, condemnation, physical and spiritual death (Gen 3.1-7; Rm 5.12-19; Eph 2.1-3) so that man is a sinner by nature and by choice, completely depraved, destitute of any moral good, and utterly unable to merit God's favor or contribute to his salvation (Rm 3.10; Jer 17.9; Eph 2.9; Titus 3.5; Rm 4.5-6).

Toronto Baptist Seminary Statement

IV. Of the Creation

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and (a) that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; (b) that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; (c) that man's creation was not by evolution or evolutionary change of species or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; (d) that all animal and vegetable life was effected by special creation,

and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind."

V. The Fall of Man

We believe (a) that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but (b) by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, (c) in consequence of which all mankind are now sinful, and are sinners not by constraint but of choice; and (d) therefore under just condemnation without defence or excuse; and (e) that man in his natural state is in a condition of total depravity, by which we mean his natural utter incapacity to receive the things of the Spirit of God apart from the quickening grace of the Holy Spirit.

Other statements:

From the *Answers in Genesis* statement (Creation Ministries International has the same statement):

- The account of origins presented in Genesis is a simple but factual presentation of actual events and therefore provides a reliable framework for scientific research into the question of the origin and history of life, mankind, the earth, and the universe.
- The various original life forms (kinds), including mankind, were made by direct creative acts of God. The living descendants of any of the original kinds (apart from man) may represent more than one species today, reflecting the genetic potential within the original kind. Only limited biological changes (including mutational deterioration) have occurred naturally within each kind since creation.
- The great Flood of Genesis was an actual historic event, worldwide (global) in its extent and effect.
- The special creation of Adam (the first man) and Eve (the first woman), and their subsequent fall into sin, is the basis for the necessity of salvation for mankind.

From the Institute for Creation Research statement

- All things in the universe were created and made by God in the six literal days of the Creation Week described in Genesis 1:1-2:3, and confirmed in Exodus 20:8-11. The creation record is factual, historical, and perspicuous; thus all theories of origins or development that

involve evolution in any form are false. All things that now exist are sustained and ordered by God's providential care. However, a part of the spiritual creation, Satan and his angels, rebelled against God after the creation and are attempting to thwart His divine purposes in creation.

- The first human beings, Adam and Eve, were specially created by God, and all other men and women are their descendants.

Observations:

1. One of the priorities of this exercise is to correct deficiencies in our own statement. This area is one we neglected. In our confused culture, a clear statement on creation is vital.
2. The FBFI statement outlines our essential beliefs on creation, focusing more on the doctrine of man, while the Toronto Seminary statement does better.
3. None of the statements surveyed deal much with God's creation of marriage or purpose in creating male and female. It is at this point that we need to make a statement concerning these matters.

Suggestion:

Creation

We believe that God created all that exists, forming the physical universe over a period of six twenty-four hour days. The Creation account in the Bible is no allegory or figure of speech, but a true outline of God's activity in creation. God directly created all forms of life as fully functional unevolved organisms, designing all to reproduce after its "kind" and allowing no reproduction across "kinds" by God's established law. The creation record is factual, historical, and clear; thus all theories of origins or development that involve evolution in any form are false. God sustains and orders all creation through his power and under his providential care.

Genesis 1.1-2.3, Genesis 6.17-20, Genesis 7.13-16, Exodus 20.8-11, Colossians 1.16-17

Man

We believe that God created man on day six of the creation week, directly and not by any kind of evolutionary process. God created man in His image,

and in a state of sinlessness, as both a physical and spiritual being. We believe that man freely chose to transgress the will of God, and thereby incurred sin, condemnation, physical and spiritual death on all men so that man is a sinner by nature and by choice, completely depraved, destitute of any moral good, and utterly unable to merit God's favor or contribute to his salvation.

Genesis 1.26-30, Genesis 2.4-25, Genesis 3.1-19, Jeremiah 17.9, Romans 3.10-19, Romans 5.12-19, Ephesians 2.1-3, Ephesians 4.24, Titus 3.5, James 3.9.

We believe that God created man as male and female, that creation determines gender, and deny any notion that gender is fluid or a social construct. God created man, male and female, in his image for the purpose of populating the earth and holding dominion over it. God created man, male and female, for the institution of marriage, which God intends as one man and one woman until death parts them. We thus deny the validity of so-called same sex marriage and decry the tragedy of divorce that runs rampant among men. Though marred by the fall, God's essential purpose for creation remains the same.

Genesis 1.26-30, Genesis 2.22-25, Matthew 19.4-6, Mark 10-6-9, Romans 7.2, 1 Corinthians 7.10, Ephesians 5.22-33.