

Belgic Confession, Article 14, “Creation, Fall and Corruption of Man”

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 2:4-3:7

Lesson Aim	To understand two things: First, what it is to be created in the image of God. Second, what it means that mankind is fallen and corrupted.
Steps to Learning	Read Belgic Confession, Article 14 and Genesis 2:4-3:7. Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	What does the moral image of God in man include? The capacity for knowledge of God, holiness and righteousness. The genesis account does not explicitly mention these moral aspects; how do we know they are a part of the moral image of God? Paul discusses the renewal of these moral aspects in the Christian in Ephesians 4:24 and Colossians 3:10. If they are being renewed then it is presupposed that they were the original moral components in Adam and Eve. What else is included in the image of God in man? The capacity to love neighbor, to work and to rule or have dominion over the creation. What text records the narrative of the fall of mankind? Genesis 3:1-7. What put the fall into motion? That Adam and Eve gave ear to the devil while ignoring God. What biblical text is key to understand with respect to Adam, our federal head, bringing sin into the world with the result that all people are sinners? Romans 5:12: “just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.” What happened to the original moral image in man (knowledge, righteousness and holiness) after the fall? It was lost so that man will never choose God. There is no “free will” with which to come to God. What is man’s only hope? Jesus Christ who, through faith in him, saves man and begins to restore the original moral qualities.
Bible Reading	1 Samuel 1-7 (covering the great Bible stories)