

FOR THE BODY: *EXTENDED RESOURCE PAGE*

LESSON FOUR

April 29, 2018

New Creation – Galatians 3:26-29

- ❖ As Micah mentioned in his sermon, the literal Greek phrase “male and female” that Paul uses in Gal. 3:28 only appears two other times in the New Testament – Matthew 19:4 & Mark 10:6. All three times, this phrase recalls the creation story in Genesis 1 for the reader. Reread Genesis 1:26-27. How does the original creation story impact our new creation story? How does baptism restore what God created in the garden?
- ❖ Micah mentioned in his sermon that in Genesis 1 and 2 there was mutuality, companionship, reciprocity, respect and love between God and humankind...between male and female. Then in Genesis 3, something goes horribly wrong. The woman and man choose not to depend on God, but to depend on themselves, and in pride, they try to become like God. After the fall, God curses the serpent and then what follows are several pronouncements in Genesis 3:14-19. ***How should these pronouncements be understood?*** Are they *descriptions*, telling what will happen due to sin? Or, are they better understood as *prescriptions*, telling what must happen due to sin?

Consider the following breakdown/questions of Genesis 3:14-19:

1. “I will put enmity between you and the woman.”
 - Must a woman never own a snake, be a pet storeowner, or be a herpetologist?
2. “He shall bruise your head.”
 - Must a man never pass by an opportunity to kill a snake?
3. “Pain in childbearing”
 - Must a woman never take drugs to ease the pain of childbirth?
4. “He shall rule over you.”
 - Must a woman never rule over a man? (no female mayors, senators, presidents, doctors, principals, managers, etc.)
5. “Cursed is the ground.”
 - Must a man never attempt to improve the soil? (i.e. add fertilizer)
6. “In toil you shall eat of it...In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread.”
 - Must a man never lessen the toil of tiling the ground? (i.e. using a tractor)
7. “Thorns and thistles it shall bring forth.”
 - Must a man never use herbicides?

Reflection Questions:

Go back through the pronouncements and put a “D” by the ones you believe are descriptive and a “P” by the ones you believe are prescriptive. Often times #4 has been read differently than all the other pronouncements in the same passage. Why do we do this and how has that been true in your experience?