



[4] What Is the Nature of Us? | October 19, 2014

Recap: so far we've looked at:

- 1) Ways that we can know what is true and the truth claims of God
- 2) How God reveals Himself to us, "general" revelation and "specific" revelation
- 3) What God is like from Scripture, His attributes that we share and those that belong to Him alone

This week we'll look at the nature of man (humankind). First, some good news.

God created us for a purpose.

[Q] According to the following verses, why did God create us?

[Isaiah 43:7](#)

[Ephesians 1:11-12](#)

[Q] Discuss: We were created in God's image for His glory. How would you explain to a *not-yet-Christian* what our ultimate purpose in life should be?

[Q] What are some practical implications of understanding Who created us and why?

"When we realize that God created us to glorify him, and when we start to act in ways that fulfill that purpose, then we begin to experience a joy of the Lord that we have never before known."
Wayne Grudem, professor of Bible and theology

Sin came in.

[Read Romans 5:12-14.](#) [Q] How have you confirmed or validated your inherited sin nature from Adam?

Theological word for the day:

IMPUTATION—is used to designate any action or word or thing as counted to a person. And so, in doctrinal language:

- (1) the sin of Adam is imputed to all his descendants, i.e., it is counted as theirs, and they are dealt with therefore as guilty; (to be continued)

For thought: If we think it seems unfair to be represented by Adam, is it also unfair for believers to be represented by Christ and have His righteousness imputed to us?

But the free gift is not like the trespass.

[Q] Read [Romans 5:15-19](#) and list in two columns the comparisons and contrasts between Adam and Jesus. Circle the results from each.

	Adam	Jesus
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		

[Q] Describe grace from this passage:

IMPUTATION definition continued:
(2) the righteousness of Christ is imputed to them that believe in him, or so attributed to them as to be considered their own;
(3) our sins are imputed to Christ, i.e., he assumed our "law-place," undertook to answer the demands of justice for our sins. (Rom. 5:12-19) *Easton's Bible Dictionary*

[Q] Apply: Why does Paul emphasize the *gift* of justification five times in three verses (Romans 5:15-17)? Why is it so important to understand that justification/salvation is a free gift? How should this concept impact the way you share the gospel?

[Q] How does God's overflowing grace change the way I think of myself (Romans 5:20-21)? The way I think of others?

Optional: Listen to "Your Grace Finds Me" by Matt Redman: youtu.be/Mqd8MoiCbcl (5:41)

Parents: Check out these great resources for kids of various ages related to this week's sermon: valleycommunity.cc/resources/faithathome/faithathomebelieve

Pray

Reminder: Community Service Day is Sat, Nov. 1. valleycommunity.cc/ministries/outreach/community-service-day