

1. God made man upright. Scripture teaches us that man was made in a state of perfect conformity to the image of God.
2. Man has sought out or invented many new ways in which to walk, forsaking the way in which God originally placed them.
3. Man has forsaken the one living and true God and sought out or invented many false gods and created idols, to which they give that honor and attention which are due to Him alone.
4. Man has ceased to be conformed to the Divine law, and have sought out many other rules--rules more agreeable to their present sinful inclinations--by which to regulate and try their conduct.
5. So, in various ways, man measures their selves by themselves, and compares themselves among themselves; for while they follow these rules of human invention, they have lost all that uprightness, that conformity to the Divine law, with which they were originally created.
6. There have been innumerable excuses, pleas, and apologies that he has sought out to justify his conduct, and to make his self appear unfortunate and still good.

The original state of man:

- I. The created bodies of our first parents were not subject to the deformities and infirmities, the fatigues of labor, and the injuries of climates, or seasons, nor to distempers, violence and death which we are now exposed to; and no doubt but they were built with various beauties of due proportions, color and form vastly superior to all that now appear in the ruins of human nature.

But the chief glory of the natural form of man lies in his soul, which is an incorporeal, invisible and immortal, intelligent, free and active being, and so bears the natural image of God, as He is a Spirit.

The bands of union between soul and body, and the way of their influencing and impressing one another, lie among the unsearchable mysteries of nature of which we have no ideas. But this we know, that by their union with each other to constitute a human person, the glories of the upper and lower worlds are in a sort epitomized and shadowed out in man.

- II. The tenure by which or the terms upon which he was to hold this moral state. It was not entailed upon him by any absolute promise that he should continue in it; nor was it put upon a mere act of Divine sovereignty whether he should hold or lose it; the first would have left no room for a trial of his obedience, and the last would have taken away a grand article of his encouragement to that obedience and of his pleasure in it.

1. This shows what dreadful work sin has made in the world.
2. This shows that all good is from God, and evil from us.
3. Let us be deeply affected with the present state of human nature.
4. Let us turn our eyes to the better covenant and the final Sacrifice that God has provided for our recovery. (*J. Guyse, D. D.*)
7. The state of innocence.
8. Man was then a very glorious creature. There was no impurity to be seen; no squint look in the eyes, after any unclean thing; the tongue spoke nothing but the language of heaven.
9. Man was the crown of creation. While he was alone in the world he was not alone, for God was with him. His communion and fellowship were with his Creator, and that immediately; for as yet there was nothing to turn away the face of God from the work of His own hands, seeing sin had not as yet entered, which alone could make the breach.
10. God kept one thing, one tree in the garden, out of his hands, even the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
11. Man had a life of pure delight and pleasure in this state. God placed him, not in a common place of the earth; but in the Garden of Eden; a garden planted by God Himself.
12. He was immortal. He would never have died if he had not sinned; death came as the result of the fall - which shows it to be the consequence of sin, and not of the sinless human nature.
13. Man's defection from his created state was merely voluntary, and from the unconstrained choice of his own mutable and self-determining will.
14. The nature of man is now become universally depraved and sinful.

15. These ways are of man's seeking and sought out. All men have followed the example of Adam, seeking ways of happiness beyond what God has prescribed for them. True happiness is only to be found in His service, and if man seeks it elsewhere he will be disappointed.

