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**Week 4 – The Human Condition  
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**Article 3 – The Human Condition**

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

**Humankind: Secular vs. Biblical Beliefs**

Secular View of Humanity	Biblical View of Humanity
Product of naturalistic evolution	Created in the image of God
Basically good (or at least neutral)	Born as sinful in a state of depravity
In charge of our own destiny	God is in charge of our destiny
We can ascend to goodness	True goodness only through Christ
We must trust in ourselves for life's ultimate meaning	We must trust in God for life's ultimate meaning
Morality based on cultural norms set by humans	Morality based on unchanging Biblical truth revealed by God
We can "save ourselves" from ourselves	Only Jesus can save us from ourselves

**Jeremiah 17:9** -The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick. Who can understand it?

**God's Saving Work – Three Critical Truths:**

1. God \_\_\_\_\_ us (Romans 5:19)
2. God \_\_\_\_\_ us (2 Corinthians 5:16-20)
3. God \_\_\_\_\_ us (Romans 12:2)

## **So What?**

Romans 8:18 says that through Christ, our sufferings are put into proper perspective, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, God works all things for our good, we are more than conquerors, and inseparably united to Christ Himself! This impacts everything about our experience of this fallen world.

## **QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

### **Personal Life:**

1. Many would agree that we live in a very narcissistic culture, where self-promotion, self-esteem and selfies rule the day. Why do you think so many people continue looking to themselves as their ultimate source of "good" when the world around us is falling apart in so many ways?

### **Ponderings:**

2. The Bible says that before a person is transformed by the New Covenant, their heart is "deceitful above all things and desperately sick" (Jer. 17:9). What does this tell you about humanity's utter inability to accurately diagnose itself? Discuss...
3. That people are born sinful does not mean they are incapable of manifesting certain qualities of their Creator. What is the difference between general human "goodness" (due to a person being created in God's image), and genuine fruit of the Spirit goodness (due to a person being spiritually reborn in Christ)? Discuss...
4. Looking again at the chart on your message outline, discuss each of the "Secular" viewpoints about humanity and give one example of how you see this playing out in society...
5. God rescues us (past), reconciles us (present) and renews us (ongoing) as gracious acts of His saving work. Which of these aspects of your salvation are you most thankful for in this season of your life and why?

### **Promptings:**

6. Why do our core beliefs matter so significantly in terms of how we live our lives? Share some specific ways in which your understanding of the spiritual (blindness) of humanity will impact the way you treat others, pray for others and love others in the week ahead...