

**Sermon Outline and Discussion Guide for Adult Bible Study**

**April 6, 2014**

**The Fallen Incapacity of God's Grand Image Bearer**

**Genesis 1:26-37; Genesis 3:1-7; Belgic Confession Article XIV (14) - Creation & Fall**

Intro: The story of the human race is one of 'perfect capacity' resulting in 'absolute incapacity'.

**I. The Creation of Mankind in God's Own Image (Genesis 1:27).**

Elements / Components of the Image of God in Man:

Rational Being: \_\_\_\_\_.

Nonmaterial Being: \_\_\_\_\_.

Both of these belong to the "Broad Aspect" of the Image of God as are retained after the fall.

Our "Profession of Faith" deals with mankind's creation in the Image of God in what theologians call the "Narrow Aspect" of the Image of God. See Belgic Confession, Art. XIV (14).

*"We believe that God created man out of the dust of the earth, and made and formed him after His own image and likeness: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, capable in all things to will agreeably to the will of God".* These three are based on Genesis 1 and Ephesians 4:4

The word, \_\_\_\_\_ as it will be set over against our \_\_\_\_\_ after the fall.

**DQ.** How would you describe the creation of man in the Image of God?

**DQ.** What does male and female together have to do with Divine Image Bearing?

**II. The Fall of Mankind at Satan's Instigation (Genesis 3:1-7).**

*"But being in honor, he understood it not, neither knew His excellency, but willfully subjected himself to sin and consequently to death and the curse, giving ear to the words of the devil".*

Here our confession insists on the \_\_\_\_\_ character of the first sin.

*"The commandment of life, which he had received, he \_\_\_\_\_; and by sin \_\_\_\_\_ himself from God, Who was his true life. And being thus become \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ in all his ways, he lost his excellent gifts which he had received from God".*

**DQ.** Why were our first parents so gullible, so susceptible to the wiles of the Devil?

**DQ.** Isn't this in itself a flaw in man's created make up? What should we say to this claim?

**III. The Consequences for Mankind in Spiritual Incapacity.**

\_\_\_\_\_ turned to \_\_\_\_\_. And \_\_\_\_\_ changed to \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 1:5** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 3:19-20** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 3:27** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 6:43** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 8:7-8** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 8:6** \_\_\_\_\_

**Philippians 2:12-13** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 15:5** \_\_\_\_\_

**DQ.** Has it been your own experience that you're really not ready to "begin with Jesus" until you've come to the "end of yourself"? See Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 1 Q&A 2.