

## Introduction

- Mankind was created in God's image but is spiritually dead because of our sinful nature and our sinful behavior. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

## Spiritual Death

- Sin is the problem in our lives and in our world.
- Sin is despising and attempting to dethrone God, and it leads to spiritual death.
- Sin leads to physical and spiritual death.
- Sin makes us guilty, culpable, and blameworthy.
- Sin estranges us from God and from each other.
- Sin corrupts and perverts everything that it touches.
- Sin enslaves us to its power.
- Every horrific and broken thing in the world is because of sin's power and influence.

## Other Narratives

- Everyone has some idea of what mankind's primary problem is.
- Man's problem comes from longing.
- Man's problem comes from ignorance.
- Man's problem comes from inside ourselves.
- Man's problem comes from our environment, which can be fixed.

## Sinful Nature

- We are spiritually dead because we have inherited our sinful nature.
- We are predisposed to sin.
- Adam's sin is the original sin.
- Adam's sin has spread to all of humanity.
- We have inherited our sin because we have sinned with Adam.
- We have inherited our sin because we are children of Adam.
- There are some different views on how exactly original sin works.
- The essential part is that everyone is born a sinner.

## Original Sin

- Original sin described our inheritance a sin nature and its guilt from Adam.
- The Eastern church would say we only inherited a disposition towards sin not guilt.
- The Western church would say we inherit a corrupt nature and guilt.
- The primary objection is that this is not fair.
- We inherit sin because Adam was the representative of all humanity.
- We inherit sin because we were physically present in Adam.
- We inherit sin because we choose to follow in Adam's footsteps.

## Sinful Behavior

- We choose sin as soon as possible.
- We cannot blame anyone else for our sin because we choose it.
- Our behavior is always tainted by sin.
- Our spiritual state cannot be fixed by behavior modification alone.
- Even our best actions and choices are often tainted by sin.

## Nature and Choice

- Our church does not take an official position on how depravity affects free will.
- However, it is important to see that our spiritual state comes to us.
- And as soon as we are able, we choose to enslave ourselves to sin.

## Gospel Connection

- This is the definition of our spiritual problem.
- The gospel is the answer to what our problem is and how it can be fixed.
- Our spiritual death can only be solved by Jesus Christ.

## Takeaways

- We need to recognize our own spiritual condition.
- We need to recognize the spiritual condition of the world.
- We need to remember that Christ is the only solution.