

- i) The Old Testament Idea of humankind
  - (1) We are creatures, totally dependent on God.
  - (2) We are creatures and belong to God...we are not our own.
  - (3) We are creatures and un-equal partners with God.
    - (a) To have dominion over the earth as God would have dominion
    - (b) To "tend and till" creation
  - (4) We are by nature relational
    - (a) Made for a relationship with God
    - (b) Made for a relationship with other creatures
    - (c) Made for a special relationship with other humans.
  - (5) Various ways to relate to others
    - (a) By seeing and being seen
    - (b) By speaking and listening
    - (c) By helping and being helped

### The Doctrine of Sin

- b) At some level we seem to be separated from our true selves. This is a symptom of what the Bible calls "sin".
- c) We are made in the image and likeness of God
  - i) We ought to live in thoughtful dependence on and obedience to God.
  - ii) We ought to live a life with our fellow human beings in a relationship of mutual openness and help
- d) We must take sin seriously but not too seriously. That is to say that the nature of man is not that man is a sinner but that man is made in the image and likeness of God.
- e) All of us are sinners but our sinfulness is un-natural not natural.
- f) The Biblical idea of sin is departing from our nature and destiny or "missing the mark".

- i) Sins of strength, like arrogance and pride...trying to be God.
  - ii) Sins of weakness, like gluttony or lust...trying to be like an animal.
- g) We can think of sin in several ways
- i) As disobedience ...breaking God's laws
  - ii) As sensuality...let the urges of the body drive our behavior.
  - iii) Sin as lack of trust in God and therefore preferring to be our own God. This understanding of sin flows from a desire not to be dependent on anyone but to be self-sufficient.
- h) Original Sin...the sin of "Adam and Eve" passed on to us
- i) Some believed it was passed on through conception, that we inherit a defective nature.
  - ii) Some see Original Sin as a statement about all human beings...Adam is humankind and we are all sinners.