The Fall

| **No.** | **Topic** | **Comment** |
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| 1 | Man in God’s Image: The Fall | This is a critical doctrine and possibly the one most widely known but least supported, even within the wide church. We hear the story of Creation told and retold many times from cradle to old age, and I cannot believe that anyone here is not familiar with at least the broad details – it is such a wonderful story. However, it’s not just a story – it explains perfectly how we stand before God, and its implications are foundational for our understanding of our relationship with God, with each other and nature.  Let’s look at how it appears in our Statement of Belief. |
| 2 | KBC Statement of Belief | Follows teaching on **Bible, Trinity and Jesus: Let’s affirm it together.** |
| 3 | Route Map | I’m going to use these headings show to how this statement can be justified, and its implications for life and salvation |
| 4 | Gen 1:1-31 Creation  Physical Universe  Living Organisms  Man – the image of God  Companionship with God | 1. Physical laws, conditions for life 2. Senses, Growth, Reproduction, Instincts, Memory   3. Spirit: Cognition – delight in knowing  - Freedom a critical component of companionship  - Co-Dominion of Nature – no sickness  - Relationship needs boundaries for defining respect |
| 5 | God | 1 John 1:5 – God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.  There is no good thing in man that God does not share, but on a much higher plane  Our five senses – touch, sight, hearing, taste, smell  Our appreciation – music, art, dance, story,  Our emotions – joy, sadness, humour, disgust, anger,  Our values – justice, generosity, compassion, truth |
| 6 | God’s blessing is conditional | **Royal wedding** – To love God first means to honour His Holiness. It is not love to ignore His rules or to encourage others to do so. |
| 7 | The Parts of Man | Scripture tells us that man is made up of three parts – most clearly defined in this verse |
| 8 | Body Soul and Spirit | Somos - the Animal instinct  Pneumos – “Breath” – **Life and Conscience**:  Psyche – Mind - Psycho-somatic |
| 9 | The Fall  The snake’s tactic | **The Fall** – Until this moment the man and woman were in perfect harmony with God’s holiness. God ruled nature through and with them.  God had only made one restriction to their freedom, both for their good, and to strengthen their trust.  1. They had innocence and peace, perfect dominion over the natural world. They loved and trusted one another, and walked with God in Eden.  2. Sin = Badness. Attributing badness to good, goodness to bad. Disobedience basically accuses God of evil – **The snake’s tactic**  2. The Fall = the decision by Eve, then Adam, to trust a created being who suggested that God was withholding power and pleasure from them, treating them like children, and making an empty threat of death.  3.1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.  He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,[b] she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. |
| 10 | The Result Gen 3:7  (v5) “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” | Then the eyes of both were opened and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths  Knowing evil, meant that they had chosen to make **desirability sufficient reason for action**. This initially gave a sense of power, but the implications of the resulting sin were overpowering |
| 11 | Fallen Man | The soul was no longer closely tethered to the spirit, but strongly influenced by the flesh. The spirit was reduced to weak cries of conscience, discomforting and shaming the soul |
| 12 | Facing God with knowledge of evil | 3:8And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden  3:24 God drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.  5:12 – Therefore just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, thus death spread to all men, because all sinned |
| 13 | Man after the Fall | Companionship with Creator replaced by Fear, Shame and Distrust. Separation then from self, community and nature.  And disobedience brought a breaking of man’s dominion over nature with God’s curse: |
| 14 | Nature cursed, no longer friendly 3:vv16-19 | 3v16: To the woman he said,  “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”  Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you saying, “You shall not eat of it:  Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.  Man had fallen from co-sovereignty with God over nature, to mere superiority over nature by virtue of intelligence.  But it was not complete abandonment. God had a plan to turn the tables on the serpent, and to re-instate man. 3v15 “he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” |
| 15 | And the Misery of Sin | Having gained knowledge of evil, together with freedom of choice, humanity was now at the mercy of personal ambition, covetousness and deception  Example: “Evil” to discipline children with a rod, “Good” to have parents who do so arrested and their children removed.  “Good” to oppress Christians and Jews, “Bad” to allow them freedom of worship.  “”Good” to allow abortion to late pregnancy, “Bad” to publicise the harvesting of baby parts from abortions. |
| 16 | Scriptural Illustration | 4:8: Now Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.  6: 5-8 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.  19 The destruction of Sodom owing to “the outcry against it that has come to Me, because its sin is very grave” (18:20, 21)  Ex 32:7-10 the Lord said to Moses, “Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves – they have made themselves a moulded calf and worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, “This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt – Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make you a great nation.”  Judges 19:22-27 Suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men, surrounded the house and beat on the door. They demanded “Bring out the man who came to your house that we may know him carnally!” – Concubine given, raped to death – tribe of Benjamin destroyed. |
| 17 | Failure in Modern Times | Freud – “Unconscious, irrational forces”  “Expose the unrecognized longings and fears”  WW1/Communism/Atheism/Capitalism  “Man an impossible species”  “Enjoys torturing and killing”  “judgement not reliable – must be guided from above”  “ideal of individual freedom is impossible” |
| 18 | If we reject The Fall.. | We will think we can control ourselves and others  We will experience futility  We will seek escape in decadence  We will ruin our lives and those of others  We will live in denial, pretence and depression  We will die before we’re dead  And will still have to face Holiness. |
| 19 | The Fall is Real | Scripture clearly teaches it  Scripture and world history clearly illustrate it  Modern conditions continue to confirm it  Denial leads to deception, misery, despair and wasted resources of time, money and effort  Acceptance leads to the only remedy, which is always fully effective. |
| 20 | Romans 5 |  |
| 21-22 | Insert answers |  |
| 23 | Invitation |  |