

First Baptist Church
January 18, 2026
“The Basics of Mankind”
Genesis 2:4-17

I. Message

a. God's breath in the man

- i. “4 These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day (at the time) that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, 5 And every plant of the field before it was in the earth (not the same plants in 1:11 created on day #3, but the thorns and thistles – 3:2), and every herb of the field (humanly cultivated herbs, crops) before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth (very unpredictable resource), and there was not a man to till the ground (no rain and no man to this point, so no sin, therefore no thorns and thistles, but also, no cultivated field plants). 6 But there went up a mist (or springs) from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. 7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground (CLEARLY not from a monkey or any other creature, but from dirt), and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”
- ii. No one has been able, but even if you WERE able to assemble a human body
 1. You cannot give it LIFE
 2. God molds rather than speaks Adam into existence and then...
 3. Then God breathes His own breath into that body, the breath of LIFE!
 - a. This word soul in the Hebrew is generic for “living creature”
 - b. But it is more specific in Greek in 1 Cor. 15
 - c. 1 Corinthians 15:45 “...The first man Adam was made a living soul...”
 - i. This is different than the life of an animal
 - ii. We (alone in creation) have three collaborating parts

1. A body (physical)
2. A spirit (personality)
3. A SOUL (eternal component, capable of a relationship with an eternal God)
4. God is the giver of life
 - a. John 1:1-4
 - b. Ezekiel 37:9
 - c. John 20:22

b. God's benevolence toward the man

- i. "8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. 10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads."
- ii. Eden was a garden of beautiful and delicious plants – v.8-9
 1. Adam didn't need to cultivate the ground or plant crops
 2. Adam didn't need to pull any weeds
 3. It was all perfectly provided for him
 - a. God provided everything he needed for food
 - b. And water from the springs of the earth
 - c. A river with 4 tributaries to water the garden – v.10
 4. It was PERFECT
 5. In God's goodness, He provides for mankind and always has
 - a. Genesis 22:13-14
 - b. Psalm 34:8-10
 - c. Luke 12:22-24

c. God's business for the man

- i. Even though there were no weeds and no need to cultivate crops
- ii. There was something for Adam to do
 1. He wasn't created for leisure only!
 2. God wanted Him to dress and keep the garden

iii. “15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

1. His job (in addition to obeying God) was to dress and keep the garden
 - a. Perhaps picking to best of the fruit
 - b. Perhaps pruning for optimal growth
 - c. Maybe making small adjustments for maximum sunshine and water
2. But we DO know God wanted man in charge of the garden
 - a. There was something for him to DO
 - b. This is an extension of the Creation Mandate we looked at briefly last week
 - i. Colossians 3:22-23
 - ii. 2 Thessalonians 3:10
 - iii. Ephesians 4:28

II. Applications:

- a. Do you see the image of God in others (even those you don't like)?
- b. Are you caring appropriately for your body, soul and spirit?
- c. Are you thanking God consistently for His daily provision for you?
- d. Are you embracing hard work as a regular pattern in your life?
- e. Are you engaged in God's effort to restore His image in new creatures?
 - i. Colossians 3:10
 - ii. Romans 8:29
 - iii. 1 Corinthians 15:49