

BEING HUMAN: GROWTH GROUP STUDY 2

On Sunday morning we looked at the metaphor in Isaiah 64:8: ***"You are the potter, we are the clay; we are all the work of your hands."***

If you were there, what do you remember? What were some implications?

We recognised on Sunday that there is much wrong with us. None of us are perfect clay pots! As we approach some ethical issues in this series, we need to understand the impacts that the fall (Genesis 3) has had.

Read Genesis 3:1-6 How would you describe the fall using the terms "potter" and "clay"?

The humans "clay" wanted to be like God (v5) the "potter".

We're going to think about the consequences on humans. The Bible describes humans as being made up of two equally important parts: The Body (sometimes called the flesh) and the Heart (sometimes called the spirit or the soul) Verses which show the idea that we are "embodied souls" are Matt 10:28; Matt 26:41

Read Genesis 3:14-24

What consequences did the fall have on the human body?

Death and pain / Separation from the tree of life

What consequences did the fall have on the human heart?

Warped desires – impacting our relationships / Separation from God

How has the fall affected our bodies?

Read Romans 8:22-23 What has been the impact of the fall on our bodies? What makes you groan?

We groan – awaiting the redemption of our bodies. Our bodies need redeeming – Might be worth dwelling on the various ways our bodies fail or are marred by the fall (but don't go on all night!)

How has the fall affected our hearts?

Jeremiah 17:9 Deceitful above all things

Romans 3:9-18 All of us are fallen and are worse than we think!

1 Peter 2:11 Our desires are out of sync. Not always doing us good. To follow your heart is not always wise!

How has the fall affected our world?

Romans 8:20-21 frustration / bondage to decay – "natural disasters"

So, what impacts of the fall do we need to allow for when we discuss issues surrounding life and death, gender or sexuality? We live in a fallen world. Our bodies are broken and will die. We all live under that shadow and feeling the consequences. What we feel may not be trustworthy. Our minds are fallen too.

The fall ought to help shed light on our own experiences, struggles and confusions and make us compassionate towards others with different struggles.

And we need to acknowledge our sin along with our suffering

What reality do we have for our bodies and hearts as Christians today?

Ezekiel 36:25-27 God will change our hearts and give us his Spirit

John 3:3 – we can be born again by believing in Jesus

Romans 12:1-2 Our minds (hearts) can be renewed

What hope do we have for our bodies and hearts as Christians in the future?

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 We will gain resurrection bodies

Revelation 22:1-5 No more curse / access to tree of life

Pray – for those in the group who are particularly suffering the impact of living in a fallen world. And for ourselves to trust Jesus: for "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow."