

## A unified vision of the world and people



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God created humans as the crown of creation and gave them life (Genesis 1-2). In the Garden of Eden, they had everything they needed for life and a direct relationship with the Creator. God created them uniformly in his own image - with bodies, minds, emotions, a willingness to fellowship, responsibility and creativity. Each human being is a complex entity, where the parts are interwoven and cannot be rigidly separated from each other (such as physical, spiritual or mental). The elements are closely interrelated.

The Fall fundamentally changed this original order of creation. Man lost his direct relationship with God and consequently entered into physical and spiritual death. The unity of interpersonal relationships was also broken and a struggle for survival in nature began. Man has been essentially changed, but has not completely lost his humanity. Since then, all men are born separated from God under the power of sin. As creatures, we have no way of shaking off that status by our own efforts.

God, however, is characterized by love, mercy and grace. He takes the initiative and seeks a relationship with his creation. He has declared himself to them and entered into covenant with them. Many biblical stories, beginning with Abraham.

Jesus came to earth to introduce his father and died to save us. In this way he opened the way to God (Jn14,6) and makes possible direct communion with God. It is everyone's personal choice to respond to this gift and to cultivate their relationship with God. Whoever becomes a child of God is given a new identity (2 Cor 5,17) and is transformed by the Holy Spirit into the image of Christ. A lifelong process of transformation begins, which will be seen outwardly through the fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5,22). However, this is not automatic or passive, but an interaction between God and man. God has given each person responsibility for their own life (1Cor3,9-13) and will one day hold them accountable (Rev20,12).

Our task as believers is to mutually support and accompany one another and to proclaim the gospel. This is why we come together in the local church, which is an integral part of the worldwide church of God. Being a Christian means community, solidarity and outreach. All community activity is about praising God, teaching, edifying one another, living out fellowship, etc., as described in Col 3:16.