

D. Creation of Mankind

1. Statements of the Doctrine

The Belgic Confession, Article 14, states:

We believe that God created man out of the dust of the earth, and made and formed him after his own image and likeness, good, righteous, and holy, capable in all things to will agreeably to the will of God.

The Scotch Confession of Faith, Article 2, states:

We confesse and acknowledge this our God to have created man, to wit, our first father Adam to his owin image and similitude, to whome he gave wisdome, lordship, justice, free will, and cleir knowlege of himselfe, sa that in the haul nature of man there cult be noted no imperfectioun.

The Irish Articles of Religion, Article 21, states:

Man being at the beginning created according to the Image of God (which consisted especially in the wisdom of his mind and the true holiness of his free will), had the covenant of the law ingrafted in his heart, whereby God did promise unto him everlasting life upon condition that he performed entire and perfect obedience unto his Commandments, according to that measure of strength wherewith he was endued in his creation, and threatened death unto him if he did not perform the same.

The Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 4, Section 2, states:

After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after his own image, having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfill it; and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject unto change. Beside this law written in their hearts, they received a command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; which while they kept they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures.

2. The distinction between mankind and the animals

a. According to Scripture, there are some similarities between human beings and animals, and some dissimilarities. The similarities may be seen in the common derivation of their bodily material, the common origin of their biological life, and the common result of their creation in terms of becoming living beings. The dissimilarities may be seen in the uniqueness of human beings, both as creatures made in the image of God, and as rulers over all other living things.

These similarities and dissimilarities are noted below.