



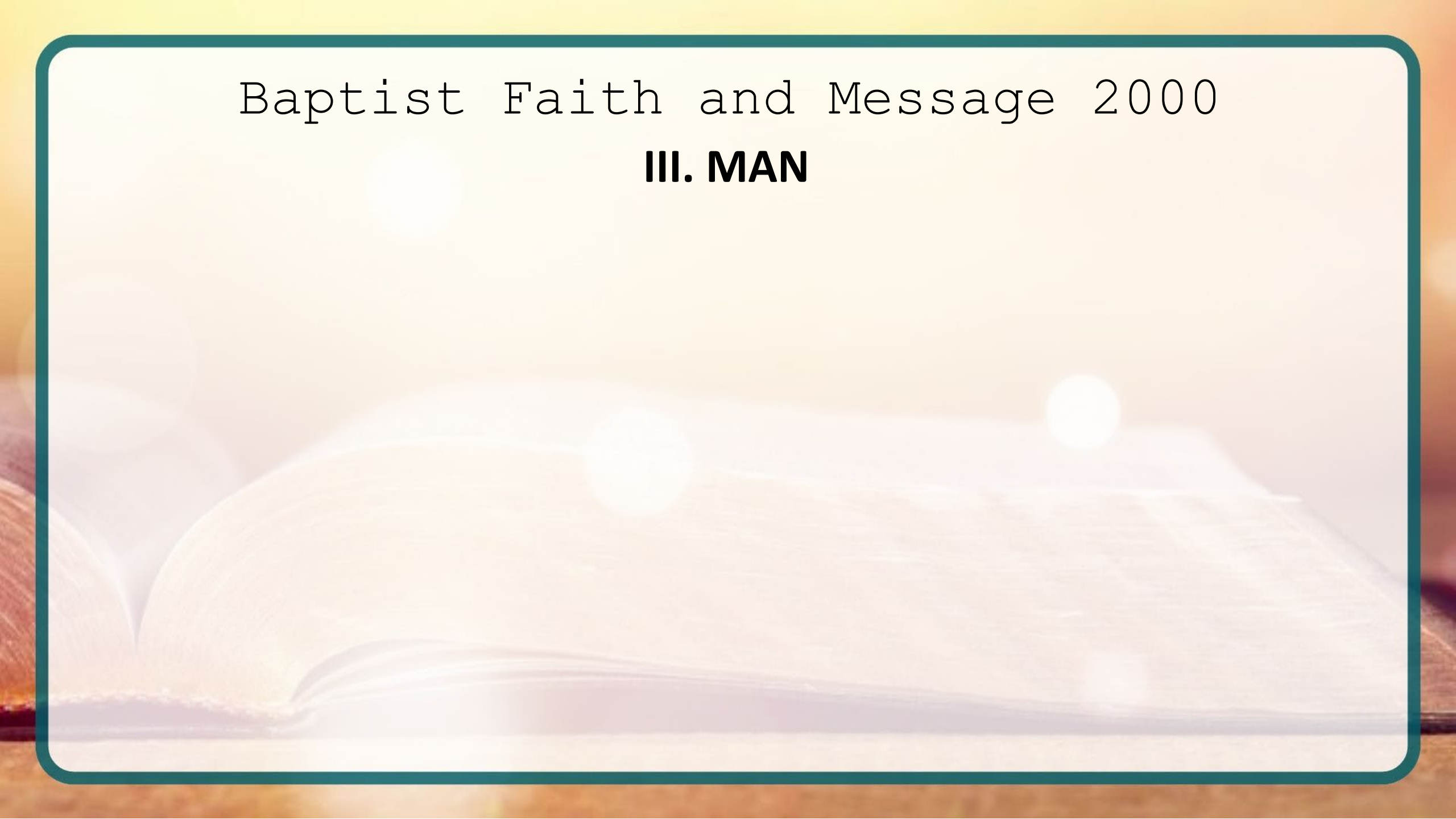
FIRST BAPTIST
MERIDIANVILLE
REAL. FAMILY.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE
BAPTIST
FAITH &
MESSAGE
2000

Baptist Faith and Message 2000

III. MAN



Article III

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race.

Article III

Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin.

Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Key Texts

Genesis 1:26-27: “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Key Texts

Genesis 2:18: “And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”



Key Texts

Genesis 3:15-16: “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain 2 you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

Key Texts

Genesis 9:6: “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man.”

Psalms 8:4-6: “What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angel, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.”

Key Texts

Romans 5:12: “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”



Key Texts

Ephesians 2:1-3: “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among 3 whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”

Major Theological Observations

BF&M affirms that God created humans.

- *Man is the special creation of God*

Major Theological Observations

Humans are the image bearers of God.

- *made in His own image... the crowning work of His creation.*



Major Theological Observations

BF&M celebrates the gift of gender, gender is a gift from God.

- *He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation.*

Major Theological Observations

Humans experienced corruption because of sin.

- *In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race.*

Major Theological Observations

Humans after Adam have a sin nature.

- *Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation.*

The Ability of Mans Will

Original State	Fallen State	Redeemed	Glorified
Adam and Eve	Unredeemed	Redeemed	Heaven
Power not to sin, but able to sin	Power only to Sin	Able not to sin.	Not able to sin
Truly Free Will	Bound Will (slave to sin)	Liberated Will (In Christ but still tempted)	Perfected Will

Major Theological Observations

Man needs to experience the redeeming grace of God.

- *Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God.*

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- *Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God.*

Major Theological Observations

BF&M celebrates the sacredness and dignity of human life.

- *The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.*