



What sort of freak, then, is man; how novel, how monstrous, how chaotic, how paradoxical, how prodigious. Judge of all things, evil earthworm; repository of truth, sink of doubt and error; glory and refuse of the universe. Man's greatness and wretchedness are so evident that the true religion must necessarily teach us that there is in man some great principle of greatness and some great principle of wretchedness.

—Blaise Pascal





# IMAGO DEI

Restoring the Divine Image



## Romans 5:12

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Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

## Romans 6:23

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For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



# Romans 8:18-25

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I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

<sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

<sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.



# Romans 8:18-25

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We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.



# Outline

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1. What is the fall?
2. How has the fall affected us?
3. How does the cross restore fallen humanity?





# 1. What is the fall?

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- A definition
- An illustration



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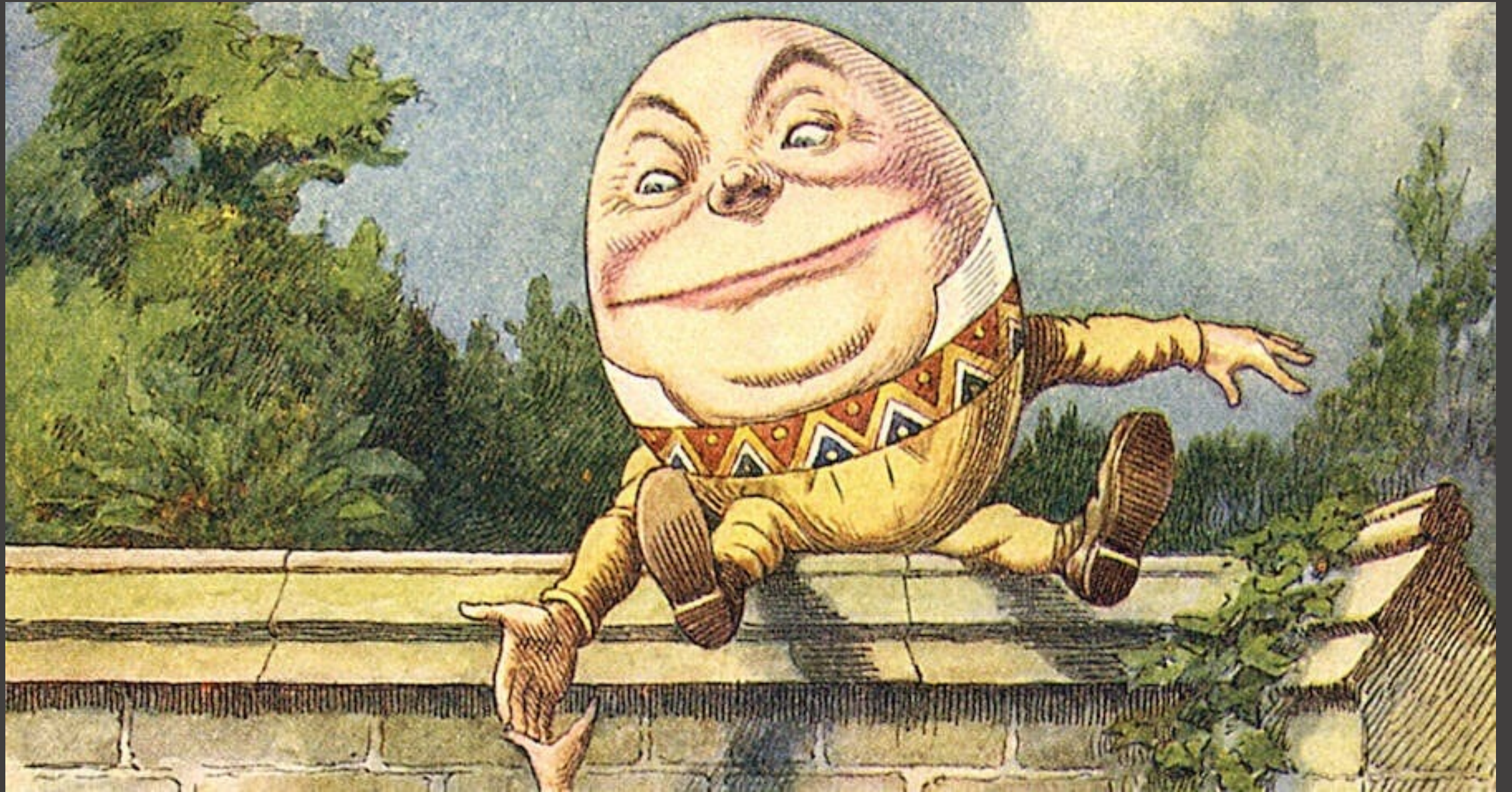
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## A definition of the fall

The event in which Adam and Eve, the first humans, disobeyed the explicit command of God, thereby bringing sin and death onto the human race. As a consequence of the Fall humans have become alienated from God, from one another and from the created order.







## 2. How has the fall affected us?

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Romans 5:12, 6:23, 8:18-25





## 2. How has the fall affected us?

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Three aspects of fallen human nature:

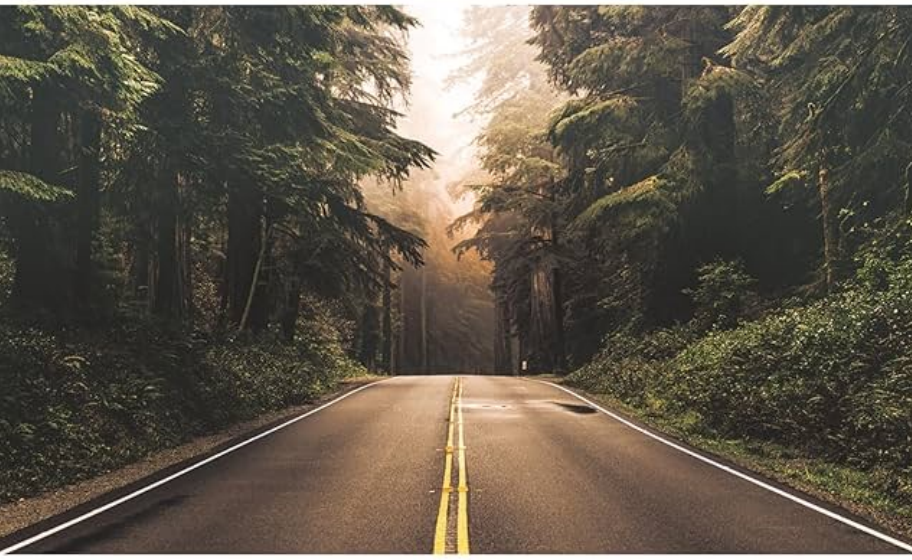
a. Sin





ERIC L. JOHNSON

Author of *Foundations for Soul Care*



# God & Soul Care

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Humans were created to be in harmonious relationship with God, others, and themselves. As a relational disorder, sin has three aspects: (1) rebellion against God, (2) enmity with one's neighbor, and (3) sin against oneself... and each is characterized by falsehood: (1) idolatry, (2) the misinterpretation and misuse of others, (3) self-deception, defenses, and false selves.



## 2. How has the fall affected us?

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Three aspects of fallen human nature:

a. Sin

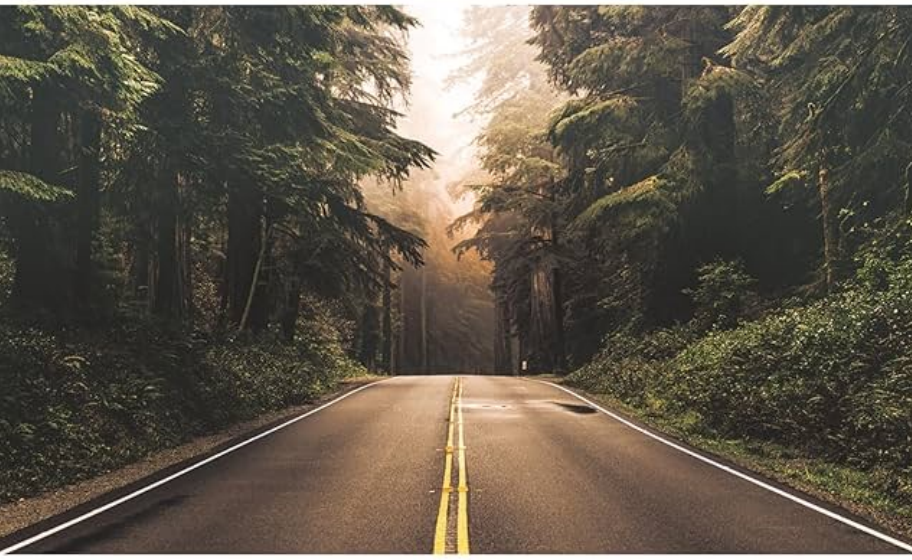
b. Suffering





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Suffering is commonly understood to be a state of conscious pain or distress, usually involving negative emotion, stemming from adversity. However, suffering varies considerably in a number of ways. It exists on a continuum from mild to severe; when severe enough to damage the individual, it is called *trauma*; when long term, it is called *chronic*; when severe but episodic, it could be called *catastrophic*.



## 2. How has the fall affected us?

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Three aspects of fallen human nature:

- a. Sin
- b. Suffering
- c. Weakness





# “Weakness” in the NT

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*astheneia* = translated as weakness, disability, or infirmity

“It is the most common term in the New Testament for physical illness... but it can be used to refer to all kinds of limitations: psychological, moral, and spiritual.” (Johnson, *God and Soul Care*)

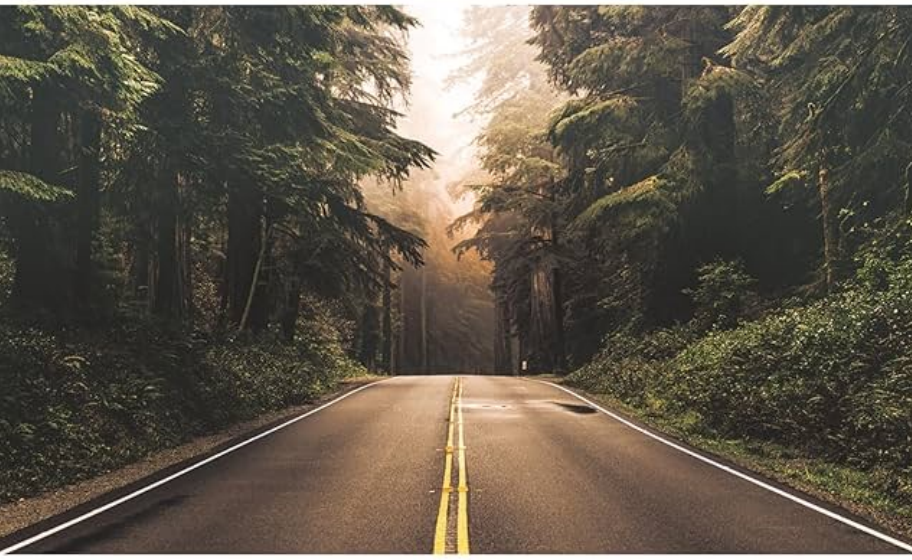
Examples: Mt. 8:17; 1 Cor. 1:25; Heb. 4:15; 2 Cor. 13:4; Rom. 8:26





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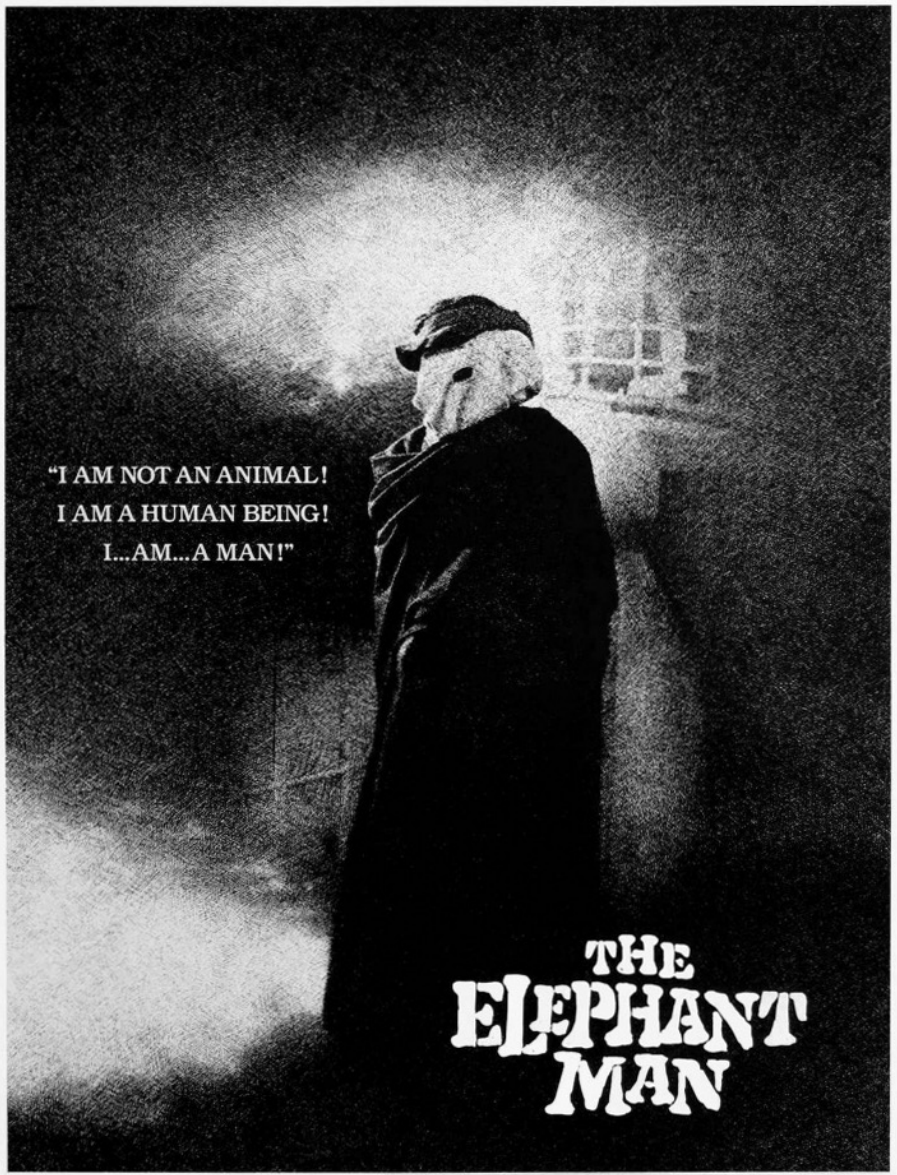
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[Weakness] is a rather comprehensive term in the Bible used to denote of variety of physical and psychological conditions that were less than whole or that involved the lack of some competence or ability to accomplish something that most of the humans are able to do. So weakness in the Bible refers to *the state of being less than in some respect, either less than some ideal – less than complete and whole – or less than what is typical for human beings, and so deficient in some respect to most other people...*





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### 3. How does the cross restore fallen humanity?

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1 Peter 2:21-25





# 1 Peter 2:21-25

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To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." <sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." <sup>25</sup> For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.



# 3. How does the cross restore fallen humanity?

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On the cross, Jesus...

- 1) Bore our sins (1 Peter 2:24-25)





# 3. How does the cross restore fallen humanity?

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On the cross, Jesus...

- 1) Bore our sins (1 Peter 2:24-25)
- 2) Suffered as an example (1 Peter 2:21-23)







The picture of God that is given to us by the cross, is that of a deserted, bruised, bleeding, and dying God, who gave new meaning and dignity to human suffering by passing through its shadow himself.

—Alister McGrath



# 3. How does the cross restore fallen humanity?

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On the cross, Jesus...

- 1) Bore our sins (1 Peter 2:24-25)
- 2) Suffered as an example (1 Peter 2:21-23)
- 3) Was "crucified in weakness" (2 Cor. 13:4)







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Let us learn, therefore, in every temptation to transfer sin, death, the curse, and all the evils that oppress us, from ourselves to Christ, and, on the other hand, to transfer righteousness, life, and blessing from him to us.

—Martin Luther





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Restoring the Divine Image