I. Introduction.

A. Man was originally created in the image of God, but he fell.

B. All creation came by God's fiat. He created out of himself. (Genesis 1:3)

II. What the image of God is.

A. A moral conscientiousness. (Romans 2:14-15; Ecclesiastes 7:21)

B. The ability to know and communicate with other people and God.

C. God-given dominion over the rest of creation.

D. We are like God in some ways and dissimilar from God in other ways. (Ezra 1; Isaiah 45)

III. The partial loss of God's image. (Genesis 3)

A. God took something that was neutral and gave mankind an occasion to obey or disobey.

B. Adam entered into death both physically and spiritually. (Genesis 5:1-20; Ephesians 2:5)

C. What happened to Adam happened to all of us because he was designated our representative. (Romans 5; Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 6:1-8)

D. From the Fall comes original sin. We sin because it is our nature to sin. (Psalm 51:5)

E. Every part of us has been affected by sin. This is total depravity, and it is the penalty of Adam's sin.

   A. When we trust in Christ, our guilt is forgiven.

   B. We have not been altogether released from depravity though. There is residual depravity. (Galatians 5:17)

IV. The constitution of man. The soul can be separated from the body. (Philippians 1:21)

V. Questions and answers.
Application questions:

1. What is mankind's relationship to sin apart from Christ?

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2. What is the Christian's relationship to sin now? Explain.

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3. What active steps can you take to start dealing with sin in your life today?

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