

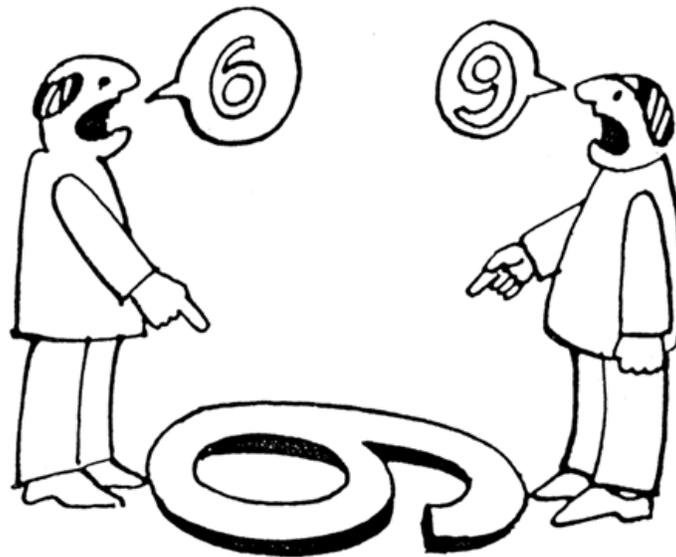
THE ORIGINAL INTENT

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1. PERSPECTIVE

Our perspective on the intention behind something will cause us to view the thing in a certain way. Our perspective is the lens through which we view, process and understand our surroundings.



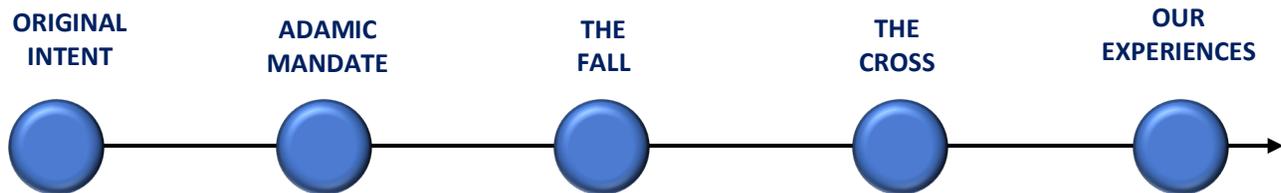
The man on the left sees a 6, the man on the right sees a 9. You could argue that both are correct, because they approach the number from different perspectives. The truth is, the painter of the number meant for it either to a 6 or 9. One of the men are wrong in their assertion.

How we get to the truth? We have to find out the INTENTION of the painter in order to confidently say what the number his.

The same is true when it comes to our Faith. Our perspective on God, why He created everything, how He interacts with His creation, His plan of salvation and the purpose for His church needs to be based on a foundational understanding of His ORIGINAL INTENTION for creation. The lens through which we view, understand and live out our faith determines how effective we will be in fulfilling the reason for our creation.

2. REFERENCE POINTS

We each have a core reference point when it comes to our faith – a starting point upon which we seek to understand and live out our life in Christ. Our understanding of God and our relationship with Him is generally linked to one of the following reference points:



Our Experiences

The lens through which we understand and live out our life in Christ is based on key experiences we have had with God e.g. healing, provision etc.

The Cross

The lens through which we understand and live out our life in Christ is based on the fact that Jesus died on the cross, reconnecting us to God. The issue of redemption and salvation is central to this perspective. Once redeemed, we then enjoy experiences (fellowship) with God.

The Fall

The lens through which we understand and live out our life in Christ is based on the fact that man (Adam) disconnected from God by choosing to disobey God, rejecting His ways and will. Jesus then came to redeem us back to God, reconnecting us to our eternal purpose. From here we then have access to experientially engage God.

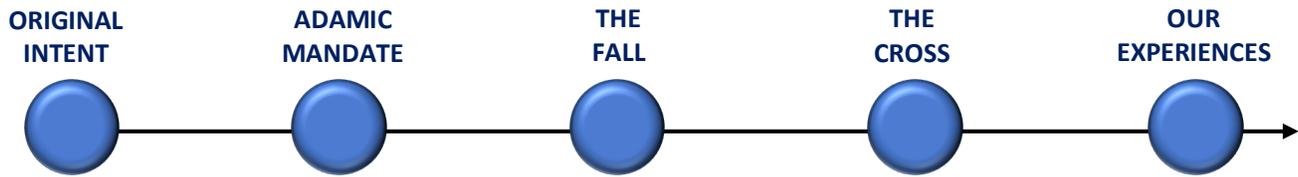
Adamic Mandate

The lens through which we understand and live out our life in Christ is based on the instruction God gave to Adam when He created man – be fruitful, multiply, subdue the earth, etc. This perspective has the issue of rulership and dominion as its focus, as well as a strong sense of purpose.

Original Intent

The lens through which we understand and live out our life in Christ is based on God's original intent behind creating everything. This perspective goes beyond the account of creation and has to do with why God created us in the first place. Understanding the original intent involves having an understanding of the fact that we were in God prior to our manifestation in time, and brought out so that we can put His nature on display.

The further we move to the left of this line, the closer we get to the original intent of God:



Our primary reference point **needs** to be the Original Intent if we are to be effective in the purpose for which we have been created. The Original Intent answers the question ‘why’ – why did God create us? Answering the question WHY will give definition to the purpose of the WHAT.

3. GOD CREATED EVERYTHING

John 1:3

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Everything that exists has been created by Good, both seen and unseen - things in earth and things in heaven. Nothing can exist outside of the reality of God’s creation.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Summary of what God created:

Day 1 - Light

Day 4 - Sun, moon, stars

Day 2 - Heavens

Day 5 - Sea animals and birds

Day 3 - Earth

Day 6 - Land animals, man

Romans 11:36 [AMP]

For from Him [all things originate] and through Him [all things live and exist] and to Him are all things [directed]. To Him be glory and honor forever! Amen.

Romans 11:36 [NLT]

For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.

- Everything that exists, both visible and invisible, comes from God.
- Everything is sustained through Him and the systems He has put in place.
- Everything finds its conclusion in Him, pointing to His nature, thus bringing Him glory.
- FROM HIM → THROUGH HIM → TO HIM.

4. OUR ORIGIN IS GOD

Jeremiah 1:5a

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;

Knew: God did not just know about us, but He knew us experientially before forming us in the womb (the same Hebrew word for *knew* is used here: “Adam *knew* Eve and she bore a son”). We were not created at the point of conception. Our bodies were formed in the womb, but the essence of who we are comes from God.

Ephesians 1:4a

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.

We existed in God before anything was created – before the foundation of the world.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.

When we die, our bodies return to the ground and our spirits return to God. Key word: *return* – something can only be returned if it was there in the first place. This verse further reinforces the truth that our origin is God.

5. WHY DID GOD BRING US OUT?

Ephesians 1:4

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

- We were **IN** God. He brought us out so that we could be **BEFORE** him. How did God want us to exist before Him? See verse 5:

Ephesians 1:4,5

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

- We were in God, and brought out so that we could be before him as a SON (includes male and female).

Romans 8:29

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among [IN] many brethren;

- We are those whom God foreknew – in God before creation. We have been brought out God to put on display his image. We can only do this by conforming to the image of Christ, the pattern Son of God.

The words ‘in’ (Ephesians 1:4) and ‘among’ (Romans 8:29) are translations of the Greek word ‘*en*’, which means ‘in’. Christ is our template. He showed us how to fulfil the original intent of God by the example he set for us while on the earth, putting on display His father’s glory (“If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father” - John 14:9). Christ is to become the firstborn WITHIN each of us, allowing us to put the Father’s nature on display.

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;

- Image and likeness are not references to something physical. It has to do with God’s nature and character. We have been created to REPRESENT God, showing forth his glory.
- We were brought out to be the visible manifestation of an ‘invisible’ God.

Ephesians 3:8-13

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who **created all things** through Jesus Christ; to the **intent** that now the manifold **wisdom** of God might **be made known** by the **church** to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the **eternal purpose** which He accomplished **in Christ** Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your **glory**.

Analogy of a baby in the womb

- A baby in the womb is one with his parents – literally in the same body.
- As much as the parents love the child while he's in the womb, no parent wants their child to stay in the womb. In order for the parents to express their love, the child needs to be born – a change from being IN to being BEFORE.
- Likewise, God wanted us before Him so that he could demonstrate His love towards us. We have been brought out as the object of His love.
- Through birth, the child is seemingly separated from the mother. The child loses the comfort of the womb and has to contend with the hostilities of life on the earth – sicknesses, natural disasters, violence and other uncertainties.
- Likewise, we have been brought out from God into this world. Even though we will face the hostilities that life brings, it is our connection to our Source that will get us through.
- God didn't want us to just be in Him, but He wanted us to be before Him, yet still connected to Him.

Creation: God spoke the environment that would sustain the creation (Genesis 1)

Verse 11 - "Let the Earth sprout vegetation"

Verse 20 - "Let the waters teem with living creatures"

Verse 24 - "Let the Earth bring forth living creatures"

Verse 26 - "Let us make man in our image, according to Our likeness"

When God created vegetation He spoke to the earth. When God created the fish, He spoke to the water. When God created the animals, He spoke to the earth. He always spoke to the environment that would sustain the creation. When God brought us out, He spoke to Himself, for He is our origin and source.

6. THE FALL & FREE WILL

The Fall

God is all-knowing. Why did He choose to go ahead with creating man if He knew that man would rebel against His intent for creating him?

- God so valued the purpose of being represented by man, that he elected to give Himself to redeem man.
- God went ahead with paying the price because of the VALUE that he placed on the purpose of being represented by man.
- God did not create man to save him, He created man to carry image and likeness. But He knew that man would choose to deviate from this plan and so He chose to save him before He made him.

God, knowing that man would disobey Him, created a way for to us to get back Him and His original intent:

Revelation 13:8b

...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Free Will

- God did not create us to be robots who blindly obey Him.
- God is Love. Love involves free will – you have to CHOOSE to love somebody. God is Love. In order to properly express His nature, we have to have free will because putting love on display requires one to have free will.

7. SUMMARY

- Our primary reference point when it comes to our faith needs to be the Original Intent.
- We existed in God before creation.
- God brought us out so that we could be before Him.
- He has ordained for us to exist before Him as a son (male and female).
- As a son, we are to put on display His image and likeness.
- God did not create us to save us. He so valued the purpose of being represented by man that he went ahead with creation knowing that He would have to save man. The cross is not the end, but the means to get humanity back on track regarding the Original intent.