

**The Doctrine of Man (Anthropology):**

As part of God's creation, He created immortal creatures that have both personality and intelligence. Included in these are Angels (Holy; and since fallen: demons/Satan) and mankind. Clearly in the Creation account, Man (men and women), were the crown jewel of God's creation. What was His purpose in creating us? And why did He create us in the fashion that He did?

**I. Why was man created?**

a. God created us for His own \_\_\_\_\_

- i. Isaiah 43:7 –
- ii. 1 Corinthians 10:31 –
- iii. Ephesians 1:11-14 –

Is man the only part of creation that brings Him glory?

- Isaiah 6:1-3 –
- Psalm 19:1 –

Was God absent "glory" before He created man?

- John 17:1-5 –

What does it mean to "glorify God" or "bring glory to God?"

- Romans 1:18-23 –

b. God created us that we might \_\_\_\_\_ Him

- i. Psalm 16:11 –
- ii. Psalm 73 –
- iii. John 10:10 –
- iv. John 17:20-24 –

## II. Man is created in the “Image of God.”

### a. Genesis 1:26-27 –

#### i. Image/likeness: Similar but not identical; represents

1. Similar in that man is like God in some respects, but also not like God in some respects (omniscient, omnipotent, eternal, omnipresent, etc.)
2. Represents God as originally assigned the role of “subduing”, or ruling over the Earth. This role was usurped by Satan:
  - a. We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. 1 John 5:19 (NIV)
  - b. "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out." John 12:31 (NAS)

Genesis 5:1-2 –

Genesis 5:3 –

### b. In that God is spirit, man is not made in the physical likeness of God.

John 4:24 –

Colossians 1:15 –

John 1:18 – “No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known.” (NIV)

### c. “Some” aspects of man that show us to be “similar” to God more than anything else in His creation:

#### i. **We have Morality** (and a conscience):

Romans 2:11-15 –

Our conscience has been corrupted by sin:

1 Corinthians 8:7 –

1 Timothy 4:2 –

Through the act of habitually sinning in a particular way, our conscience can be rendered inoperative, as our mind is programmed to believe that what we are doing is not wrong. Ie...a compulsive liar that at first knows what he is saying is not true...but by repeating it enough times, he begins to believe that his lie is actually true.

Through Christ, our corrupted consciences can be cleansed:

Hebrews 9:14 –

ii. We have **immortal** spirits:

Though our bodies clearly die, our immaterial spirit lives eternally:

Luke 16:19-31 – Rich man and Lazarus

Matthew 25:46 –

Though our spirits live forever, we are not eternal as is God:

God has no beginning and no end

Mankind was created at a point in time:

Psalm 139:13-16 -

iii. We have **Intelligence**:

We can comprehend:

eternity – Ecclesiastes 3:11

Philosophical concepts

Language

Emotions (fear of intangible)

iv. We are **Relational** (comprehend Oneness):

Marriage/Family

The Church

v. Our **Physical** attributes reflect God's character/capabilities:

We can see, hear, speak, taste, touch, smell

d. **Capital Punishment.**

In that man was created in the image of God, the penalty for murder or taking of another man's life was death.

**Genesis 9:5-6** –

**Romans 13:3-5** - For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not **bear the sword for nothing**; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. Therefore, it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.

e. **Sin has “tarnished”** but not “lost” the image of God.

We are being transformed back to our “untarnished” image of God:

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 –

Jesus “is” the image of the invisible God:

Colossians 1:15 –

We are predestined to be conformed to Jesus' image:

Romans 8:28-29 –

f. In Eternity, we will be fully restored to our “pre-fall” image of God:

1 John 3:1-2 –

III. **Arguments against the Biblical view of God's creation of man.**

a. **Evolution.**

i. In an attempt to define God out of existence, evolution is the THEORY of how things came into being, aside from an intelligent creator.

1. There is no God
2. Every form of life on Earth came about as the result of mutation and time.

**b. Theistic Evolution.**

- i. God created the universe in its raw form, and then allowed life to develop through evolution.

**Ramifications of God's direct creation of man, and in His image.**

- c. If through human philosophy, we can remove God's creation of Man:
  - i. What then is any individual's purpose?
  - ii. What then is any individual's value?
  - iii. What then is the value of an unborn life?
  - iv. How is the value of man different from that of an animal?
  - v. Why would we experience an epidemic of depression/anxiety?
- d. If through human philosophy, we can remove God's image from Man:
  - i. What is the basis for moral/ethical right and wrong?
  - ii. What does humanity do with "guilt"?
  - iii. Who then becomes god, the master of my soul?
- e. If God did not create man, and indeed God does NOT exist:
  - i. What are we to do with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
  - ii. What are we to do with the evidence (prophetic, archeological, historical) that supports the Bible as a document that no man could have written short of God?
  - iii. What are we to do with the evidence of the Church that has survived 2000 years of persecution and lives to continue the Great Commission?

**IV. “In the image of God He created them, Male and Female He created them”.**

In the beginning, God established “the family” as THE building block, THE foundation, of human existence. This was defined by one man and one woman coming together in a relationship of physical, emotional, and spiritual **Oneness**. Then bringing children into the world to “*Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth...*”.

**a. Man’s “relationships” reflect the Trinity.**

- i. The three persons of the godhead are ONE god.

Deuteronomy 6:4 (the Shema) -

John 17:20-23 –

1 Corinthians 2:10 –

First reflected at the creation account:

Genesis 1:26 – “Let Us create...”

Reflected in the baptismal formula:

Matthew 28:19 – “...in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...”

- ii. Equal in their importance and existence as distinct persons.

If the three persons of the Godhead are of equal importance/value, and we are made in God’s image, both male and female are of equal importance/value.

God pours out salvation on men/women equally:

Acts 2:17-18 –

Acts 2:41 (baptism) –

Galatians 3:27-28 –

**b. Man’s “Roles/authority” reflect the Trinity.**

- i. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit have different Roles/Authority:

1. The Father has **authority** that the Son and the Holy Spirit do not have:

John 5:16-30 –

John 15:14-17 –

2. The Father, Son, and Spirit take on different roles:

a. Creation:

Genesis 1:1-2 –

John 1:1-2 –

Hebrews 1:1-2 –

Colossians 1:15-17 –

b. Redemption of man:

Ephesians 1:3-13 –

John 16:7-15 –

Luke 22:42 –

3. Men and women have different roles/authority:

a. Order of creation:

Genesis 2:7, 18-23 –

b. Woman taken from man:

Genesis 2:20-23 –

1 Corinthians 11:7-9 –

c. Order of the fall:

Genesis 3:1-6 –

d. Adam was responsible:

Genesis 2:15-17 –

Genesis 3:8-12 –

Romans 5:12-15 –

## e. Man has authority over the woman:

1 Corinthians 11:3 –

Woman's role:

Ephesians 5:22-24 –

Vs. 32 – Reflection of Christ and the church

Titus 2:3-5 –

Man's role:

Ephesians 5:25-30 –

**c. Sin distorted the roles:**

Rather than the woman willingly submitting to the man's authority in response to his love for her, her new desire will be to control/conquer her husband, and he will "rule" over her, indicating harshness rather than kindness.

i. Genesis 3:16 –

ii. Genesis 4:6-7 – Sin's desire is to control/conquer

**d. Different Roles within the Church:**

i. 1 Timothy 2:11-14 –

ii. Elders: 1 Timothy 3:1-4 –

iii. Deacon(ess): 1 Timothy 3:8-12 –

Romans 16:1-2 –



**e. Gender Confusion:**

God created mankind as “male” and “female”. Those are the only two gender identities that God created, and they are made distinct through the biological make-up of men and women. Contrary to the human philosophies of our culture, a person’s “gender” and their “sex” are one and the same identity assigned to them by God.

- i. God created them male and female in His image: Genesis 1:26-27 –
- ii. God instituted the family as One man and One woman: Genesis 2:24 –
- iii. God designed this One-man and One-woman family to procreate: Genesis 1:28 –
- iv. ABC News’ list of 58 genders:

Agender	FTM	Trans	Transgender Male
Androgyne	Gender Fluid	Trans*	Transgender Man
Androgynous	Gender	Trans Female	Transgender Person
Bigender	Nonconforming	Trans* Female	Transgender Woman
Cis	Gender Questioning	Trans Male	Transmasculine
Cisgender	Gender Variant	Trans* Male	Transsexual
Cis Female	Genderqueer	Trans Man	Transsexual Female
Cis Male	Intersex	Trans* Man	Transsexual Male
Cis Man	Male to Female	Trans Person	Transsexual Man
Cis Woman	MTF	Trans* Person	Transsexual Person
Cisgender Female	Neither	Trans Woman	Transsexual Woman
Cisgender Male	Neutrois	Trans* Woman	Two-Spirit
Cisgender Man	Non-binary	Transfeminine	
Cisgender Woman	Other	Transgender	
Female to Male	Pangender	Transgender Female	

- v. God has defined homosexuality as a sin:
  - 1. Leviticus 18:22 –
  - 2. Leviticus 20:13 –
  - 3. Romans 1:26-28 –
  - 4. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 –
  - 5. 1 Timothy 1:8-11 -
- vi. The theological issue that pro-gay churches create is when they believe incorrectly that God created people as homosexuals, in other words, they were born that way. The logical conclusion then is that homosexuality can’t be wrong if God created people that way. Thus they interpret the above verses in light of their flawed belief.

- vii. At its core, gender/sexual confusion/distortion is more so an “identity” issue...than it is a moral issue.
- viii. **Hate Speech:** Contrary to our culture’s reaction...Christians do not “hate” those who practice homosexuality, any more than we hate someone who “lies” or “uses the Lord’s name in vain.” We are called to love our neighbor, and hate no one. So when we simply state the Biblical truth that homosexuality is wrong, we are not guilty of hate speech, any more than a vegetarian saying that they think it’s wrong to eat meat.

#### V. **The Essential Nature of Man.**

There are two primary views on the makeup of man.

**Trichotomist:** Man is made up of body, soul and spirit

**Dichotomist:** Man is made up of the material (body) and immaterial (soul/spirit/mind)

a. Support of the Trichotomist view:

- i. **1 Thessalonians 5:23** - May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole **spirit, soul and body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ii. **Hebrews 4:12** - For the word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing **soul and spirit**, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

b. Support of the Dichotomist view:

- i. **Matthew 22:36-37** - “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **mind**.”
- ii. **Mark 12:30** - Love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **mind** and with all your **strength**.”
- iii. **Matthew 10:28** - Do not be afraid of those who kill the **body** but cannot kill the **soul**. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both **soul and body** in hell.

- iv. Scripture is very clear that when our bodies die, they return to the dust, but the immaterial part of us continues on:
  - 1. Luke 23:43 – Thief on the cross...“Today you will be with me in Paradise.”
  - 2. Philippians 1:24 – “My desire is to depart and be with Christ for that is far better.” ...rather than remain on in the flesh.
  - 3. 2 Corinthians 5:8 – “We would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord”

**There are essentially three (two primary) views of where the soul comes from:**

- a. **Creationism** – God creates a new soul and unites it with the person’s body sometime between conception and birth.
  - 1. Supporters: Roman Catholic Church, Calvin
- b. **Traducianism** – The body and soul of a person are inherited from their biological mother and father at the time of conception.
  - i. Supporters: Luther
  - ii. God created man in His image, which includes a likeness to create other human beings, like ourselves.
    - 1. Genesis 5:3 –
    - 2. Hebrews 7:10 –
    - 3. Exodus 20:3-6 –
- c. **Pre-Existence** – Souls have existed in a previous state and enter the human body at some point in the womb.
  - i. John 9:2 –
  - ii. Romans 5:12 -

**Questions?**

**Assignments for the Next Module (“God’s Covenants with Man”)**

1. Read Grudem’s *Systematic Theology*, chapter 25.
2. Answer one or more of the “Questions for Personal Application” at the end of each chapter, and be prepared to share and discuss your answers in class. Or compose a question of your own (which relates to the subject matter in those chapters), research the topic, and be prepared to share your answer with the class.