

Session 5: The Doctrine of Man

Creation of Man

A. The correct term for the human race (man, humanity, humankind, human beings, persons???)

B. The reason for the creation of Man

1. God created man not out of need but for His personal glory
2. Our purpose is to fulfill the reason God created us: to glorify Him.

C. Man is God's image bearer

1. defining "image of God"

The fact that man is in the image of God means that man is like God and represents Him.

2. The fall: God's image distorted but not lost (defaced but not erased)

3. Redeeming God's image in Christ (sanctification)

Col 3:10 "being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator"

4. Restoration of God's image at Christ's return

5. Specific aspects of our likeness to God

a. Moral aspects

1. morally accountable to God
2. inner sense of right and wrong
3. able to reflect God's likeness through moral behavior

b. Spiritual aspects

1. we are spirit beings (not just physical ones)
2. we can relate to God as a person (pray, praise, hear him)
3. immortal (never cease to exist) everlasting not eternal

c. Mental aspects

1. reason and think logically (capable of abstract ideas and problem solving)
2. complex, abstract language
3. sense of time (past, present, future) and eternity *Eccl. 3:11*
4. creativity (art, music, literature, technology, inventiveness)
5. emotions (sad, happy, proud, thankful, ashamed, anxious)

d. Relational aspects

1. Community (family, church, society)
2. Marriage (reflects the nature of God - equal value, different roles)
3. Rule over creation

6. Our dignity as God's image bearers

D. The essential nature of man

1. Trichotomy (body, soul, spirit), dichotomy (spirit and soul the same) and monism

2. Biblical evidence for the dichotomist view

(overall, scripture emphasizes the unity of man - *Gen 2:7, 2 Cor 7:1*)

a. "soul" and "spirit" interchangeably

John 12:27 and 13:21, Luke 1:46-47

- b. Scripture says either the "soul" departs or the "spirit" departs
Luke 12:20 and Acts 7:59
- c. Scripture describes man as "body and soul" and also as "body and spirit"
Matt 10:28 and 1 Cor 5:5
- d. the "soul" can sin or the "spirit" can sin
- e. everything the soul is said to do, the spirit is said to do
- 3. Biblical evidence for the trichotomist view
1 Thes 5:23, Heb 4:12, 1 Cor 14:14
- 4. Benefits to dichotomist view with overall unity
 - a. avoids error of devaluing our intellects, emotions or physical bodies
 - b. understanding of continual interaction between body and spirit
 - c. emphasis on Christian growth in all aspects of our lives

Man as Male and Female

A. Personal relationships

Marriage is one of the fullest expressions of "interpersonal unity"

B. Equality in personhood and importance

- 1. Equally created in God's image
- 2. Equally important and valuable
- 3. Equally gifted for service
- 4. Equal status

C. Difference in roles between men and women

- 1. The relationship between the Trinity and male headship in marriage
- 2. Indications of distinct roles before the fall
 - a. Adam was created first, then Eve
 - b. Eve was created as a helper for Adam
 - c. Adam Named Eve
 - d. God named the human race "man: not "woman"
 - e. God spoke to Adam first after the fall
 - f. Adam, not Eve represented the human race
 - g. the curse distorted the God given roles of men and women
 - h. "in Christ" creations order is reaffirmed

3. Do these role apply to the church?

Should some governing and teaching roles in the church be reserved for men?

a. the egalitarian position

All church positions (including governing and teaching positions) are open to men and women alike.

Gal 3:28; Acts 2:17-18, 18:26, 21:9; Rom 16:7; 1 Tim 3:11

b. the complementarian position

Men and women (though equal in value) have complementary differences and therefore some governing and teaching roles are reserved for men.

1 Tim 2:11-15; Matt 10:2-4; 1 Cor 14:33-35; 1 Tim 3:1-7; Tit 1:5-9

Sin

A. The definition of sin

Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature.

B. The origin of sin

1. Questioning God's truth
2. Questioning God's moral law
3. Questioning God's authority as creator

C. Inherited sin (sometimes called *original sin*)

1. Inherited guilt: We are counted guilty because of Adam's sin. *Romans 5:12-21*

- a. Adam was our *Federal Head* (legal representative)
- b. Adam's guilt was imputed (or counted) to all humanity
- c. unfair that we should inherit Adam's guilt
 1. you have also sinned (voluntarily)
 2. If you were in Adam's place would you have done any better?
 3. It was unfair for Christ to take your sin and give you His righteousness

2. Inherited corruption: We have a "sinful nature" because of Adam's sin.

- a. In our natures we totally lack spiritual good before God.
- b. In our actions we are totally unable to do spiritual good before God.

D. Actual Sin in our lives

1. All people are sinful before God
2. Our ability does not limit our responsibility.
3. Infant death (age of accountability?)
4. Degrees of sin (Are all sins equal?)
 - a. legally?
 - b. consequences?
5. Results of sin for believer
 - a. unchanged legal standing
 - b. broken fellowship with God
 - c. loss of heavenly reward
 - d. potential discipline from God
 - e. apostasy? unpardonable sin?
6. The punishment of sin
 - a. deterrent or warning against further sin
 - b. God's righteousness demands it

Psalm 119:90

⁹⁰ Your faithfulness *continues* throughout all generations;
You established the earth, and it stands.

Genesis 8:22

²² “While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
And cold and heat,
And summer and winter,
And day and night
Shall not cease.”

Psalm 24:1

²⁴ The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains,
The world, and those who dwell in it.

Colossians 1:17

¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Hebrews 1:3

³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,