

1. Introduction:

“As humanity enters the twenty-first century, an even more frightening prospect looms. Now even the church seems to be losing the will to defend what Scripture teaches about human origins. Many in the church are too intimidated or too embarrassed to affirm the literal truth of the biblical account of creation. They are confused by the authoritative-sounding voices who insist that it is possible—and even pragmatically necessary—to reconcile Scripture with the latest theories of the naturalists” (John MacArthur, *The Battle for the Beginning*, page 17).

2. Why Study Anthropology?

- a. Scripture has much to say about the doctrine of man; humans; who we are.
- b. The world has much to say about the doctrine of man; much that is wrong (e.g. humans are merely the product of random chance mutations over billions of years; humans can choose their own gender or sexual practices, etc).
- c. It is a study in which we look at ourselves; to see our utter need and dependence on Christ.
- d. For centuries people have been trying to answer the question, “What is Man?” For each philosopher and philosophy, the answer is different. And for each different answer there will be lifelong implications for thought and life. As we look to Bible to see why mankind exists and who he is, we see his purpose for his existence and the outcome of his life.
- e. By studying the doctrine of man we also look at man’s relationship with God. How is man to relate to God and think about God?
- f. And we also look at many of the ethical issues in the world today such as abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism, euthanasia, etc.

3. What and Who is Man According to the Bible

a. Creation

- i. Genesis 1-2 describes the creation of man (Genesis 1-2 quoted 39 times in the New Testament)
 1. Creation as not a process over a long period of time.
 2. It was God working and manifesting his glory in making something from nothing.
 3. Ps 19:1, “the heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.”
 4. Heb 11:3, “By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.”

ii. Ways some interpret the creation days and Genesis 1

1. The “Day Age” theory/ Progressive Creation - (cf. 2 Peter 3:8) “From a superficial reading of Genesis 1, the impression received is that the entire creative process took place in six twenty-four hour days. If this was the true intent of the Hebrew author (a questionable deduction, as will be presently shown), this seems to run counter to modern scientific research, which indicates that the planet Earth was created several billion years ago....The more recently expanded knowledge of nuclear physics has brought into play another type of evidence which seems to confirm the great antiquity of the earth, that is the decay of radioactive minerals.” (Archer, A Survey of Old Testament Introduction, pages 181-182). By their own admissions, it is a way of believing science over the Bible. They look at 2 Peter 3:8. The problem with this is that they don’t view Creation as a miracle. It cannot be explained by science. That’s what a miracle is, something that cannot be explained or proven by science.
2. Why we are opposed to interpreting the book this way:

2 Peter 3:8 – According to this theory, every era must be a strict 1000 years. It is meant to be figurative. Also, because it uses a figurative hermeneutic, but there is nothing in Gen 1 to indicate that it is figurative or an epoch.

Another problem that run into is that if every day was 1000 years, then there was death before the Fall.

3. The “gap” theory (gap between verses 1 and 2) God created and then let evolution take over.
4. The “framework hypothesis”

The view that involves a literary framework to understanding Epics and literature. They say that the creation account is not to be taken literally. They would be considered liberal theologians. Adam and Eve are figures not real people. Why we are opposed to interpreting the book this way?: Issues concerning Inerrancy, sin, resurrection. It removes all supernatural from the way we interpret the Bible. Just another of many ancient creation accounts. Other cultures have similar creation accounts and flood stories as that of the Bible. Why we are opposed to interpreting the book this way?: We believe in the Word of God.

5. Literal 24-hour day sequence – this is what the text says. When the bible says that there was morning and evening, it means that there was a 24-hour day.
 - a. Adam was a real historical person. The records of his descendants are real and point to something greater than Adam. What is the point of the genealogies? – point to the Messiah, the seed who will crush the head of the serpent.
 - i. Also, since Adam was real, Eve was real as well. God created two genders, male and female. We do not get to decide those and to decide to make up more genders.

- ii. To seek to live as the opposite gender is an afront to God's rule over you.
- b. Since humans are created by God, we do not live in a vacuum. The only reason mankind exists is because God exists, created us, and sustains our lives. Acts 17:28. Therefore we were created to live for his glory. Is 43:6-7
- c. Mankind is not God, but is obligated to submit to God. Man is not an autonomous being in which we can do whatever we desire. We are not creatures of a free will but are to submit to the will of God.
- d. Man was also created to rule over the earth and multiply.

b. Body and Soul

- i. Some False Views of Man
- ii. Idealism- Most common among the ancient Greek Philosophers.
 - 1. They Emphasize the spirit/immaterial part of the man. They would say that the material aspects (our bodies) are hindrances to who we really are. We are better off without the body. This teaches the immortality of the soul but not the resurrection of the body. According to Plato what is real about a person is one's intellect or reason, which is actually a spark of the divine within the person that continues to exist after the body dies.
- iii. Materialism – this view would say man is a being composed of material elements. His mental, emotional, and spiritual life are simply by-products of his material structure.
 - 1. Implications of this view – this view would also deny that man is created in the image of God. Some would say that man is just the product of nature. Man has no moral obligation to God. The idea of God does not really matter.

Since man is just a product of nature, man is not responsible for the evil that he does, the society is. According to the Marxist idea the human being is not important as an individual, but rather he is important as a member of society; collectively.

2. B.F. Skinner: man's conduct and activity is only determined by his environment. Man has no decision-making "mind."

iv. Most non-biblical views of man emphasize one aspect of man over the other. The materialist looks at man as purely material and denies any spiritual aspect. The Idealist would say that man is mainly a spiritual being and the material is of no importance.

v. We believe that the Bible speaks about man as having two natures. The material and the spiritual. Or you could say the "Inner Man" and the "Outer Man" (Eph 4).

1. There are two main views: Trichotomy and dichotomy. The trichotomist would say that man is made up of body, soul and spirit (1 Thess 5:23 – does not mean that soul and spirit are separate, but that he is emphasizing the point as in Matt 22:37; Heb 4:12).

2. The dichotomist would say that man is made of body and spirit. I am under the persuasion that the Bible makes it clear that man is made up of only two parts. The Bible uses the words soul and spirit interchangeably. John 12:27, 13:21; Luke 1:46-47.

3. Man's body will die and await resurrection. When the individual dies his soul will never die and will go either immediately to be with Christ or apart from him in hell. Their body and soul will be reunited at the coming resurrection.

c. The Heart of Mankind

i. Not the physical organ. The heart is the control center for all that a person thinks, feels, says, does, his attitudes, and motivations. The word "kardia" means to the governing faculty of a person.

1. Matt 15:19, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders."
2. Luke 6:45, "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart."

ii. All humans are born with a sinful, dark heart. (Gen 6:5; Jer 17:9)

d. Image of God in Man

- i. Genesis 1:27, "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."
 1. The word "image" carries the idea of "representation." The word "likeness" means a pattern or shape or form. In the ancient world, a ruler would have an image or a statue to signify his rule and authority over that land. When people saw it, they would know who rules that area.
 2. In a similar way, as God's images bearers, we are to represent God's rule over the world. We are God's representatives.
- ii. "The image of God is inherently structural to man. It is a characteristic within the makeup of man. The image is part of man, not just something he does... The image permeates man's being. The structure probably consists of the complex qualities and attributes of man that make him human. This includes his physical and spiritual components. It could also be linked to personhood and personality and to the powers to relate and operate. It could be connected with thinking and reasoning." - Biblical Doctrine
- iii. This image of God is still in every human despite sin. It is still wrong to murder someone because when you do so you are attacking the creation of God and in a sense attacking God himself. The reason murder is wrong is not fundamentally because it's

immoral, but because all humans are made in the image of God and when you kill someone you are attacking that image.

iv. How does Man Reflect the Image of God?

1. Ontologically (his being) – he is a complex being of body and soul. He is a living, personal, active, self-conscious being. God is Spirit, and yet he grants to man a spirit. And while it is apparent that man's body is no respect an image of God, all of man's physical nature was created to reflect and bear that image.
2. Volitionally – man has a will and can decide between various choices and can discern between right and wrong.
3. Intellectually – man has a rational mind. He is aware of himself and can think logically and critically (not that he always does, but has the ability to do so).
4. Emotionally – God gave humans a wide range of emotions (fear, anger, joy, shame, regret, happiness, guilt).
5. Relationally – man was created for both relationship with God and others.
6. Functionally – man has what he needs to fill, rule, and subdue the earth on God's behalf and for his glory. Males and females can reproduce. We have bodies to interact with the physical environment of the world.

v. The image of God can and will be recovered.

1. It is currently being recovered by those who are saved. Those who know Christ are continually being made more and more into the likeness of God (Col 3:10; 2 Cor 3:18). This does not mean that our physical bodies are being made more like God, but that our minds and intellects (our ability to think clearly and rationally) are becoming more like God. Meaning that those who are saved are continually becoming more like Christ.

2. It will be fully recovered when Christ returns. This will be the complete restoration of God's Image. 1 Cor 15:49.
3. It was fully seen and realized in Jesus Christ. Christ was the perfect representation of God (2 Cor 4:4; Col 1:15).

4. Implications

- a. What does that mean for our lives? It means that we need to glorify God and give him praise. If God created us for a specific purpose, then we ought to thank Him with our whole life. Knowing that to be made in the image of God means to reflect who HE is, puts weight to it. It shows that we are not just a glorified animal or some being out to seek personal happiness. Man must live to reflect His image. Man is to bear that image in a way that will show others who He is and to show that he is a part of God's family.
- b. Men have been searching for the meaning of life ever since the Fall. It's not hard to find if you read the Bible. Ecc 12:13 and 1 Cor 10:31 make it clear what the goal/purpose of life is. The reason that people are the way they are is because they are not doing this and because they are seeking meaning and purpose in things and people rather than in the fear of God.
- c. In understanding man, we need to understand that he has a sinful nature. Man is not born neutral. There is a major problem with everyone who has ever lived. They are in trouble and there is only one way out.
- d. Though we are created in the image of God something went wrong. Instead of having a God and others orientation (Love God, love others; cf. Matt. 22: 36-40). We now have an "I am God (I am the King or Queen of my realm) and others need to love me" orientation. We as humans have an anthropocentric view of life rather than a theocentric view.
- e. In disciple making, when a person is in sin, they functionally deny their own image bearing. We must repent of sin and change our thinking and behavior. This will help the to live out our true purpose in being a people who live in such way that displays God's glory. Others should see the way that they live and know that they are God's people. They must understand their place and meaning in God's redemptive story. If they don't understand why they were created, then they won't see the need for change.