

Course Overview

- WEEK 1: Introduction to Theology, The Bible, and Sources of Authority (*Know What You Believe*, chapter 1)
- WEEK 2: The Trinity (*Know What You Believe*, chapters 2-3, 6)
- WEEK 3: Man and Sin (*Know What You Believe*, chapter 5)
- WEEK 4: Salvation (*Know What You Believe*, chapters 4, 7)
- WEEK 5: The Church (*Know What You Believe*, chapters 8-9)
- WEEK 6: The End (*Know What You Believe*, chapter 10)

Table Discussion

What are some common beliefs about the origin and purpose of man?

What do you think most Christians believe about why they were created, or what their purpose is in life?

The Doctrine of Man

Anthropology

The study of man is called *anthropology* from the Greek words *anthropos*, meaning “man,” and *logos*, meaning “word” or “discourse,” hence, anthropology is a discourse or study about man.

Why Is Biblical Anthropology Important?

Biblical anthropology provides a foundation for how Christians answer some of the most central questions to both our existence and faith:

- Where did I come from?
- Why am I here?
- What am I supposed to be doing?
- What is God’s plan for my life?
- Where am I going after death?
- Who does that make me?

Creation

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth . . . and God said, ‘Let there be’ . . . and it was good.”

Genesis 1:1-25 (Summarized)

Why is this significant?

- God spoke the universe into existence as Creator.
- God created the universe out of nothing – “Ex Nihilo.”
- God created all that exists, as “the heavens and the earth” includes our entire universe.
- God originally created a universe that was innocent and without sin.

Creation

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”

Genesis 1:31

“Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”

Genesis 2:7

Why is this significant?

- Humanity was created in a unique, personal, and special way .
- God shares a different relationship with mankind than He does with the rest of his creation.

Creation Mandate

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Genesis 1:27-28

What is our unique purpose?

- To fill the earth.
- To rule over God’s creation as his representatives.

Imago Dei

How do you define “Imago Dei”?

- Simply put, “imago dei” means that man is like God and represents God, which is unique in all creation.
- The Hebrew terms for “image” and “likeness” refer to something that is similar but not identical to the thing it represents or “images.”

Imago Dei

As image bearers, humans naturally embody attributes that are like God and represent God:

1. Moral – Innate discernment of right from wrong
2. Spiritual – Able to relate to God and pursue Him in a relationship
3. Mental – Intellectual ability to reason and determine choices
4. Relational – Enjoy deep, healthy, and harmonious relationships

Imago Dei

Implications:

1. Significance. Humans can and should derive tremendous personal significance from the realization they are the crown jewel of God's creation.
2. Value. If you define humans in any other way, but as image bearers of God with innate value and worth, you will inevitably include things that are either not humans in your definition or exclude those who are.

Table Discussion

How should the *imago dei* affect the way we view issues facing our world and culture?

Imago Dei

Implications:

3. Dignity. Every human being, regardless of being Christian or not, has tremendous dignity and worth as an image bearer of Christ. This affects our views on:

- Abortion
- Euthanasia
- The Marginalized
- Physically/Mentally Handicapped
- Elderly
- Euthanasia
- Racial Prejudice/Injustice
- Human Trafficking
- Pornography
- Gender Equality
- Self-Image

The Nature of Man

Aspects of Humanity:

1. Material Aspect: Physical body as made up of your brain, bones, skin, toes, ligaments, etc.
 - Is my physical body all that there is to me?
2. Immaterial Aspect: Intangible aspects such as mind, soul, spirit, heart, conscience, intuition, etc.
 - Where does my soul reside within my physical body?
 - Is there a difference between my spirit and soul?

All humans are made up of both *material* and *immaterial* aspects. God created us to have unity across both these aspects, as they exist in interdependence and coexistence.

The Nature of Man

When you prioritize or give greater importance to either the material or the immaterial aspects of our lives, you inevitably wrongly portray one aspect in light of the other.

Overemphasizing either the material or immaterial leads to:

1. Disregard for both the human intellect and emotion.
2. Mistreatment of our physical bodies as irrelevant or evil.
3. Misunderstanding of how our physical health impacts our spiritual health.

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The Nature of Man

The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbour's glory should be laid daily on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken. It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare . . .

The Nature of Man

All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no *ordinary* people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.

C. S. Lewis, "The Weight of Glory"

The Doctrine of Sin

What Is Sin?

"Sin is not merely (or even primarily) a behavioral problem. It is fundamentally a *relational rebellion* and consequently an internal disordering and subsequently a behavioral outworking that further disrupts the human personality and deeply habituates the entire process."

Steve Porter

What Is Sin?

Sin is more than behavior, it is more than desire, it is the deep caverns of the heart where our core nature seeks to *be* God instead of loving God.

Dimensions of Sin

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this **world** and of the **ruler of the kingdom of the air**, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our **flesh** and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

Ephesians 2:1-3

Dimensions of Sin

1. The World
2. Satan
3. The Flesh
 - Relational (Rom 8:5-8)
 - Internal (Gal 5:16-18)
 - Behavioral (Gal 5:19-21)

Dimensions of Sin

We would rather be God than trust him



Desire to fill ourselves apart from God



Behavioral Sin

Genesis 3: Systematic Temptation

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'"	Attack on God's Word <i>Is God right/true?</i>
2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'you shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"	
4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."	
6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.	Attack on God's Sufficiency <i>Is God enough?</i>

Genesis 3: Systematic Response to Sin

7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.	Shame <i>Am I even good?</i>
8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.	
9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"	Isolation <i>Could I even tell someone?</i>
10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself!"	
11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."	GRACE Fear <i>Is God even happy with me?</i>
13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."	

Genesis 3: The Fall

Five Separations at the Fall:

1. Man is separated from God (Spiritual).
2. Man is separated from himself (Psychological).
3. Man is separated from man (Social).
4. Man is separated from nature (Physical).
5. Nature is separated from nature (Natural).

3 Major Views on Sin

1. Pelagianism. Pelagius was a 4th Century ascetic who believed each human is created by God innocent with the ability to choose either good or evil. Adam's sin was not imputed to us, it just sets a bad example for us. This view holds to the free will of man to choose apart from God.
2. Semi-Pelagian. An offshoot of Pelagianism, asserts that man is inherently sinful and that God is the one who saves, but the response of faith lies with the meaningful choice of each free creature. This view holds to the presence of prevenient grace in all men.

3 Major Views on Sin

3. Augustinian. Augustine was a 4th Century bishop who believed Adam's sin was imputed to all mankind, who are dead in their sin and whose wills are "bound" (to use Luther's term). Unless God intervenes (regenerates) people, they have no ability to choose God. This view rejects human ability to choose and emphasizes the activity of God in salvation from first to last.

Biblical Metanarrative

	Creation	Fall	Redemption	Recreation
BIBLICAL	All people are created in God's image.	All people are broken and disoriented from God, themselves, others, and nature.	People are new creations in Christ with a new identity as children of God.	Hope in full restoration with a new body.
NON-BIBLICAL	Not everyone is like me.	My brokenness and sin is unique	I am defined by my sin.	It is not possible to change.

Why Does All This Matter?

Completely Broken

Ephesians 2:1-7: "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Yet, Fully Loved

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

All For Grace

and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
