

Tonight's Agenda

1. The doctrine of man.

- Anthropology – What does that even mean?
- Creation: Where do all things come from? Where does humanity come from?
- Purpose: Why did God create us? What is our purpose in life?
- Imago Dei: What does it mean to be made in the image of God?
- Nature of Man: What does Scripture mean by "soul" and "spirit"?

Tonight's Agenda

2. The doctrine of sin.

- Sin – What does that even mean?
- Fall: What happened to bring about sin?
- Origin of Sin: Where did sin originate and come from?
- Doctrine of Inherited Sin: How does the sin of Adam affect us today?
- Doctrine of Inherited Sin: How have Christians viewed this topic historically?

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.

“The goal of our study is to see how mankind is presented in the Scriptures, and from that understanding, discern what it means for our lives today.”

P. P. Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*

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 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.

Imago Dei

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'"

Genesis 1:26

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.

Isaiah 62:5: "and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you."

Zephaniah 3:17: "The LORD your God is in your midst, mighty one who will save; will rejoice over you with gladness; will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."

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 imager 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.

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:

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

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.

The Doctrine of Sin

Sin

Definition: Sin is any failure to conform our lives to the moral law of god in act, attitude, or nature.

- This shows sin to be not only actions (stealing, fighting, cursing, etc.), but sin is also shown through attitude (jealousy, pride, resentment).

Furthermore, sin impacts not only our actions and attitudes, but also our moral nature.

- Prior to a Christian's redemption by Christ, they were in a state of sin.
- Romans 5:8: "God showed His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

The Fall: Where Did Sin Originate?

1. Sin did not come from God. He cannot be blamed.
Deuteronomy 32:4: "A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he."
2. Though God did not author sin, He was not surprised by it in any way.
Ephesians 1:11: "In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will"
3. Sin originated in the angelic realm and then invaded Adam and Eve.
Genesis 3:4-5: "But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'"

The Fall: Systematic Temptation

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| <p>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?'"</p> <p>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.'"</p> <p>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."</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Attack on God's Word
<i>Is God right/true?</i></p> <p>Attack on God's Character
<i>Is God good?</i></p> <p>Attack on God's Sufficiency
<i>Is God enough?</i></p> |
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The Fall: 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.

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?"

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."

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."

Shame
Am I even good?

Isolation
Could I even tell someone?

GRACE

Fear
Is God even happy with me?

Blame
What can I do to minimize this?

The Doctrine of Inherited Sin

1. We are counted guilty because of Adam's sin.

- Romans 5:19: "For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.
- When Adam sinned, his sin impacted all those who would descend from him – every member of the human race is represented by Adam. Just as Adam sinned, God counts all men equally guilty as Adam.

2. Federal Headship: A Christian theory used to explain how Adam's sin is imputed onto all of mankind. As such, Adam acted as the representative for all humanity. In the same way, Federal Headship explains how Christ's righteousness can be imputed onto a sinful humanity by faith.

The Doctrine of Inherited Sin

3. We are recipients of a sinful nature because of Adam's sin.

- Ephesians 2:3: "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."

4. Why is this significant?

- In our natures, all people totally lack spiritual good before God. Romans 7:18: "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out."
- In our actions, we are totally unable to do spiritual good before God. Isaiah 64:6: "We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment."

The Doctrine of Inherited Sin

It is right and just for God to impute Adam's sin onto humanity:

1. Everyone has voluntarily sinned in their lives. Therefore, regardless of Adam's sin, you would still stand condemned by your own choices.
2. There is no way of knowing whether or not you would have committed the same sin as Adam in the Garden. Therefore, it is unfruitful to consider the potential outcome of such an uncertainty.
3. If it was unfair for God to impute Adam's sinfulness onto us, is it not also unfair for God to impute Christ's righteousness onto us?

Romans 5:19: "For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous."

The Doctrine of Inherited Sin



Pelagius' Teachings

- The original sin of Adam has no relation to the state in which individuals are born into. People are born innocent and sinless.
- People have free will, which gives them the ultimate ability to choose good or evil. Furthermore, people freely choose salvation.

St. Augustine of Hippo's Teachings

- Opposed Pelagius in arguing that Scripture clearly teaching every human is born into sin, and as such, they rebel against God.
- People do not have the ability to ultimately choose to their salvation apart from the grace of God illuminating their spirit.

418 CE, The Council of Carthage: Augustine's position was accepted and Pelagius' teachings were generally condemned as unorthodox.

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.
