

# THEOLOGY SESSION 5

## THE DOCTRINES OF HUMANITY & SIN

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*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.*

*Psalm 8:3-5*

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**Group Work:** What are the theological implications of these verses in regard to the doctrine of humanity? (Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 51:5; John 8:34; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 1 Corinthians 10:31; James 3:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:6-9)

# WHAT IS THE DOCTRINE OF HUMANITY?

## **The Creation of Humanity:<sup>1</sup>**

### **1. God did not need to create man, yet he created us for his own glory.**

*... everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made. (Isaiah 43:7)*

### **2. God created man to find joy in knowing the Creator.**

*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11)*

*Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (Psalm 73:25-26)*

### **3. God created man that he, the Creator, might rejoice over his creation.**

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

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

## **Created in the Image of God<sup>2</sup>**

*The fact that man is in the image of God means that man is like God and represents God. (Wayne Grudem)*

### **The Creation of Humanity – God creates man in his own image.**

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:26)*

- Both the Hebrew word for "image" (*tselem*) and the Hebrew word for "likeness" (*demut*) refer to something that is similar but not identical to the thing it represents or is an "image" of.

### **The Fall of Humanity – God's image is distorted, but not lost.**

*Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. (Genesis 9:6)*

*See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes. (Ecclesiastes 7:29)*

*... but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. (James 3:8-9)*

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<sup>1</sup>Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 440-442.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., 442-445.

## **The Redemption of Humanity in Christ – a progressive recovering of more of God’s image**

*Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (Colossians 3:9-10)*

*And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. (2 Corinthians 3:18)*

*For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son. (Romans 8:29)*

## **The Restoration of Humanity – at Christ’s return, complete restoration of God’s image.**

*Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. (1 Cor. 15:49)*

*Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2)*

### **Specific Aspects of Our Likeness to God<sup>3</sup>**

1. Moral Aspects: We are creatures who are morally accountable before God for our actions
2. Spiritual Aspects: We have not only physical bodies but also immaterial souls/spirits, and we can therefore act in ways that are significant in the immaterial, spiritual realm of existence.
3. Mental Aspects: We have an ability to reason and think logically and learn
4. Relational Aspects: In addition to our unique ability to relate to God, there are other relational aspects of being in God’s image.

### **5 Biblical Considerations:<sup>4</sup> (John S. Hammet)**

1. Creation in the image of God is affirmed in all persons
2. Creation in the image of God involves being like God in some unspecified way
3. Creation in the image of God is the basis for human uniqueness and dignity
4. Even after the fall, humans are spoken of as being in the image of God, so the image is not completely lost in the fall
5. Since Christ is the perfect image of God and the result of the process of restoration is being fully like Christ, we may speak of the image of God as being not only our created design but also our eschatological destiny!

### **Created Male and Female:<sup>5</sup>**

*The creation of man as male and female shows God’s image in (1) harmonious interpersonal relationships, (2) equality in personhood and importance, and (3) difference in role and authority.<sup>6</sup> (Wayne Grudem)*

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<sup>3</sup>Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 445-448.

<sup>4</sup>John S. Hammet, “Human Nature,” in *A Theology for the Church*, ed. Daniel L. Akin (Nashville: B & H Academic, 2007), 352.

<sup>5</sup>Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 454-467.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., 454.

→ **Harmonious Interpersonal Relationships.**

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*  
(Genesis 2:24)

*So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”* (Matthew 19:6)

*The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.* (1 Corinthians 7:3-5)

*...just as there was fellowship and communication and sharing of glory among the members of the Trinity before the world was made...so God made Adam and Eve in such a way that they would share love and communication and mutual giving of honor to one another in their interpersonal relationship.<sup>7</sup>* (Wayne Grudem)

→ **Equality in Personhood and Importance.**

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*  
(Genesis 1:27)

*And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.* (Joel 2:28-29)

*Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.* (1 Corinthians 11:11-12)

*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* (Galatians 3:27-28)

*Our equality as persons before God, reflecting the equality of persons in the Trinity, should lead naturally to men and women giving honor to one another.<sup>8</sup>* (Wayne Grudem)

→ **Difference in Roles and Authority.**

*Each member of the Trinity has distinct roles or functions. Differences in roles and authority between the members of the Trinity are thus completely consistent with equal importance, personhood, and deity. If human beings are to reflect the character of God, then we would expect some differences in roles among human beings, even with respect to the most basic of all differences among human beings, the difference between male and female.<sup>9</sup>* (Wayne Grudem)

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<sup>7</sup>Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 455.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., 457.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., 459.

*Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."  
(Genesis 2:18)*

*Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you. (Genesis 3:16)*

*For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. (Romans 5:15)*

*But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. (1 Corinthians 11:3)*

*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (Ephesians 5:22-24)*

How can a right understanding of the doctrine of humanity strengthen our intimacy with him?

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How can a right understanding of the doctrine of humanity strengthen our missional activity?

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