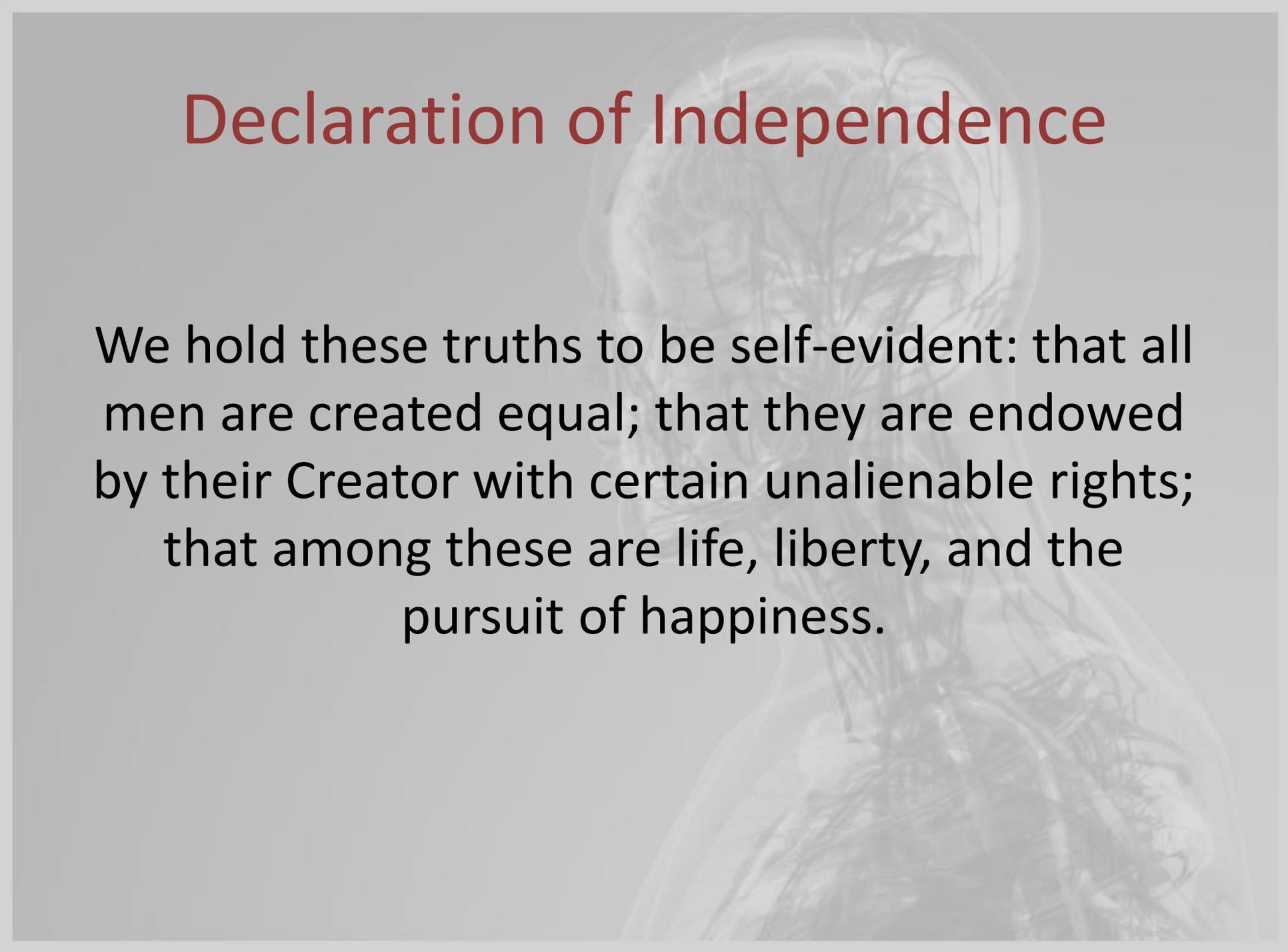


WHAT IS A HUMAN?



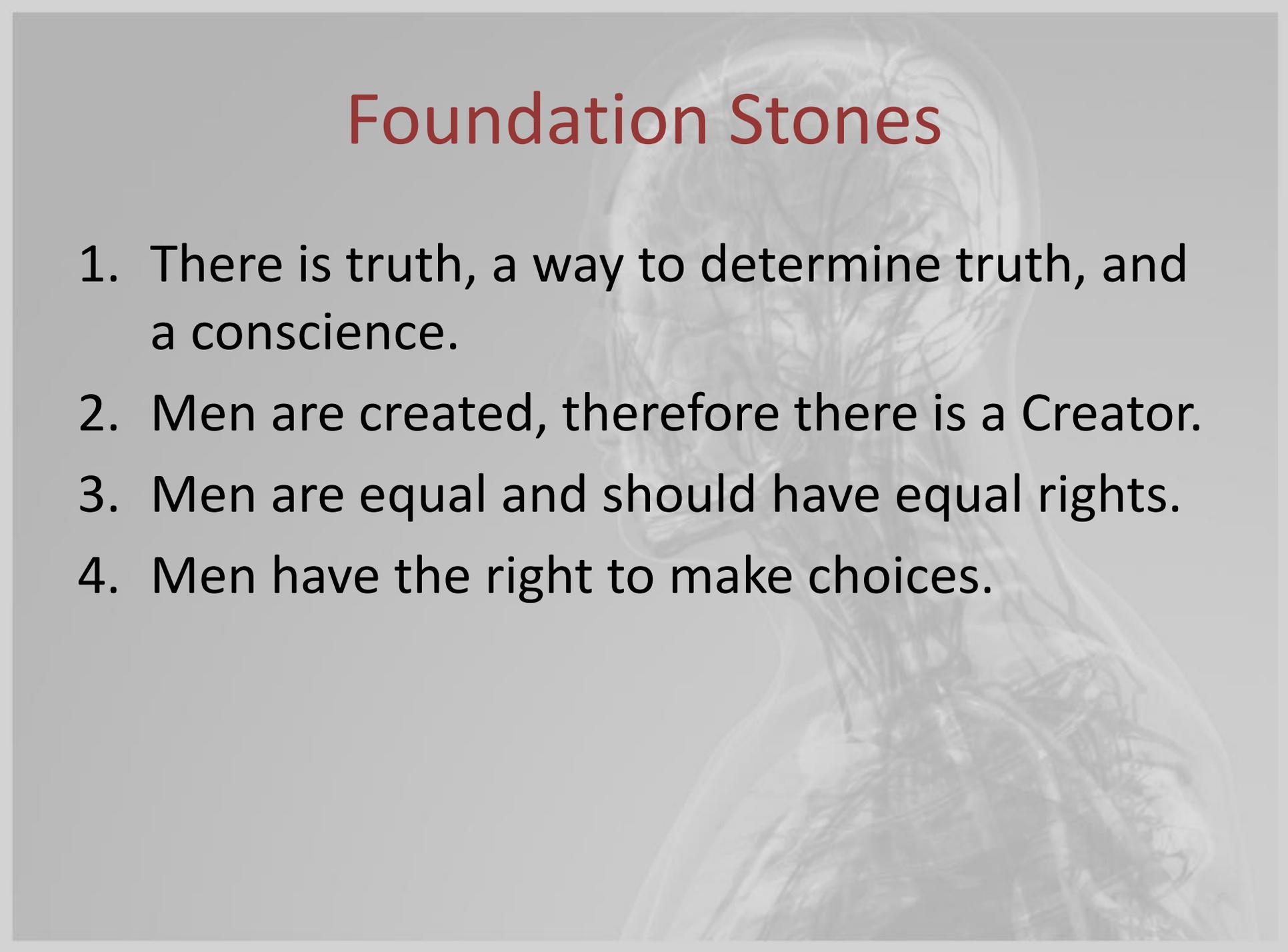
WHAT IS MAN THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM?

Declaration of Independence



We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Foundation Stones



1. There is truth, a way to determine truth, and a conscience.
2. Men are created, therefore there is a Creator.
3. Men are equal and should have equal rights.
4. Men have the right to make choices.

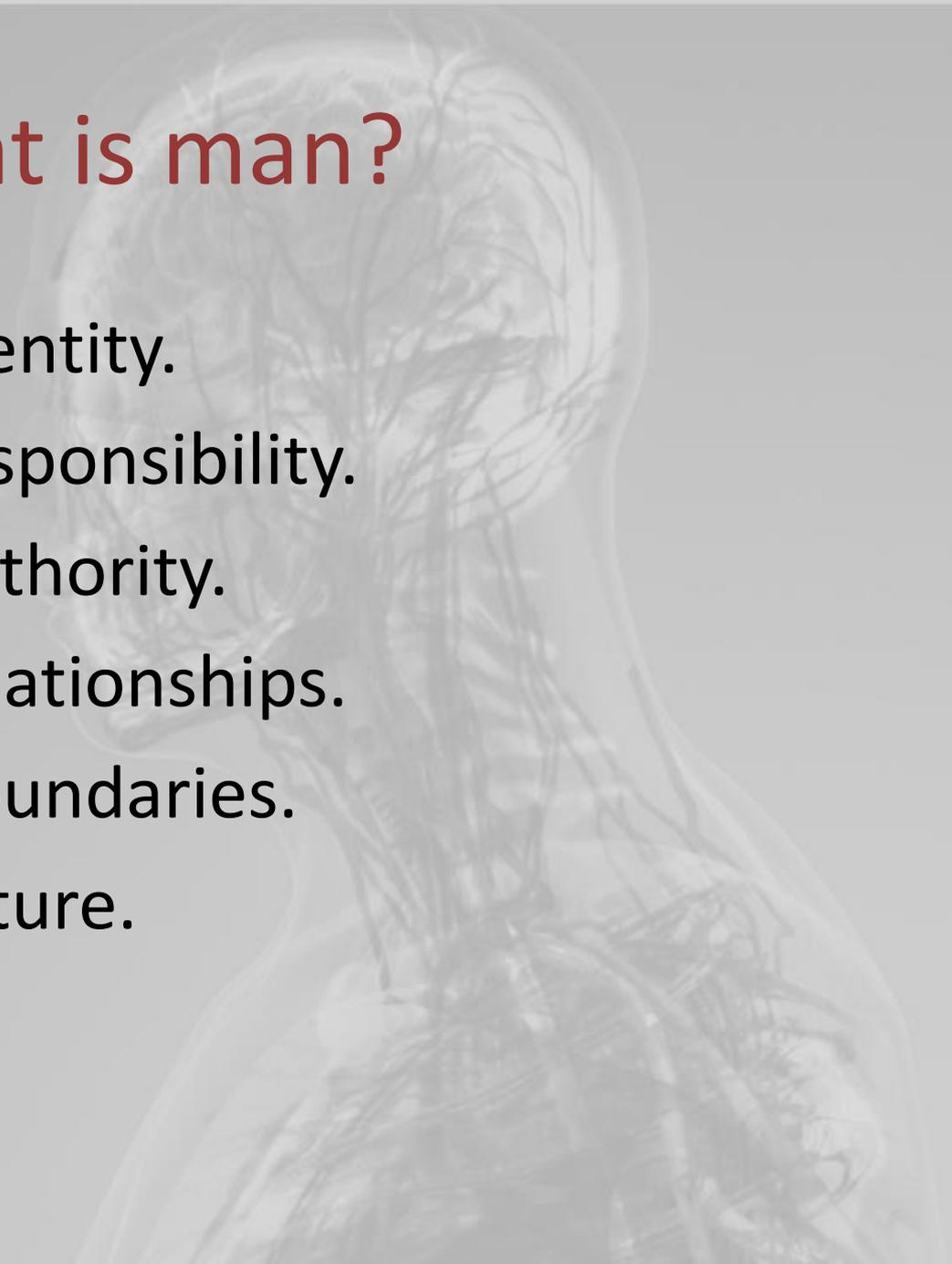
A word about words.

For our study, I will use the following terms interchangeably:

- Man, mankind, humankind, human beings, humanity, men and women, persons, and individuals.
- Biblical basis: Genesis 5:1-2

What is man?

- This defines our identity.
- This defines our responsibility.
- This defines our authority.
- This defines our relationships.
- This defines our boundaries.
- This defines our future.



Implications of the Answer

1. Existence: What is our purpose?
2. Vocation: Why do we work?
3. Composition: What is the image of God?
4. Beginnings: When does life begin? (Abortion)
5. Endings: When does life end? (Euthanasia)
6. Identity: Who are we? (Gender distinction)
7. Relationships: Who are we to marry, and how are we to get along? (Homosexuality & Racism)
8. Body: How are we to treat our body? (Health and Cremation)
9. Stewardship: How do we care for the rest of creation? (Conservationist)

Biblical Foundations – Psalm 8

1. God is the self-existent, completely independent Creator.

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. (Acts 17:24-25)

Biblical Foundations – Psalm 8

Who has first given to me, that I should repay him?
Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine. (Job 41:11)

For every beast of the forest is mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.
I know all the birds of the hills,
and all that moves in the field is mine.

If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fullness are mine.” (Psalm 50:10-12)

And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the
glory that I had with you before the world existed. (John 17:5)

God's being is also something totally unique. It is not just that God does **not** need the creation for anything; God **could not** need the creation for anything. The difference between the creature and the Creator is an immensely vast difference, for God exists in a fundamentally different order of being. It is not just that we exist and God has always existed: it is also that God necessarily exists in an infinitely better, stronger, more excellent way. The difference between God's being and our is more than the difference between a the sun and a candle, more than the difference between an ocean and a raindrop, more than the difference between the artic and a snowflake, more than the difference between the universe and the room that we are sitting in: God is qualitatively different. No limitation or imperfection in creation should be projected onto our thought of God. He is Creator; all is else creaturely. All else can pass away in an instant; he necessarily exists forever. (Grudem)

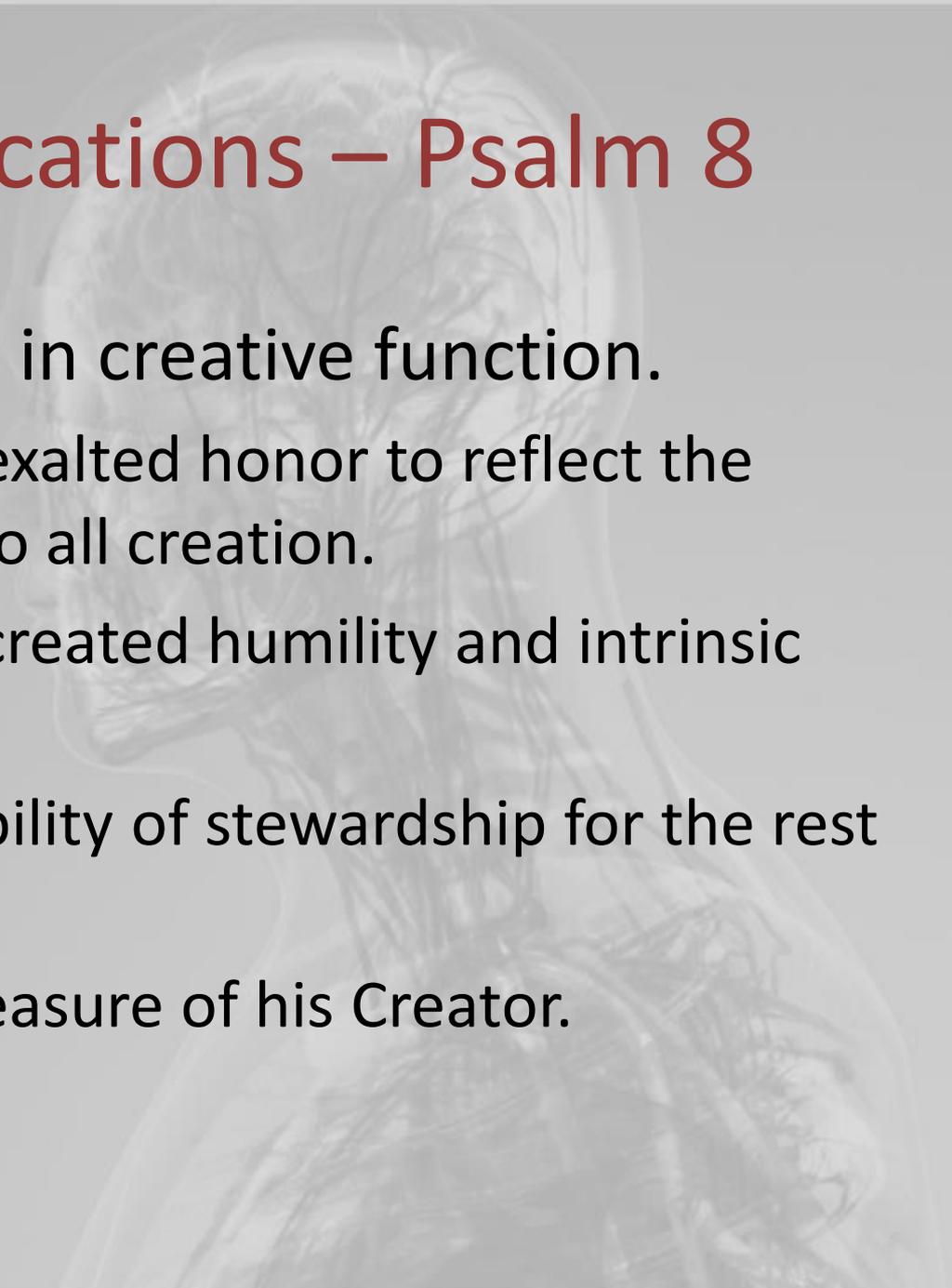
Biblical Foundations – Psalm 8

1. God is the self-existent, completely independent Creator worthy of glory (vs.1-2).
2. God created and cares for frail mankind (vs. 3-4).
3. God defines the upper and lower boundaries for mankind (v. 5).
4. God establishes the responsibilities for mankind (vs. 6-8).
5. God is the self-existent, completely independent Creator worthy of glory (vs.9).

Biblical Implications – Psalm 8

1. God is the first and final arbitrator of all of mankind's affairs.
 - This authority is based upon his creative right.
 - The authority is informed by his infinite knowledge.
 - The authority is exercised by his loving care.

Biblical Implications – Psalm 8

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2. Mankind is unique in creative function.
 - He has a place of exalted honor to reflect the character of God to all creation.
 - He has a place of created humility and intrinsic frailty.
 - He has a responsibility of stewardship for the rest of creation.
 - He lives for the pleasure of his Creator.

WHAT IS A HUMAN?



WHAT IS MAN THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM?