

## ANTHROPOLOGY (Part 2)

From *Essential Christian Doctrine*, pp. 232-245 | Adult Bible Institute, Oct. 18, 2026

### I. Gender

#### a. Gender Created by God

- i. Gen. 1:27 ~ “God created man in His own image...**male and female He created them.**”
- ii. Clear Distinctions in Role: Gen. 2:18, 20 ~ *God makes woman as a helper suitable for man*
- iii. Cultural Ideology of Gender: *gender is distinct from biological sex.*
  - Biblical Response: *biological sex (God’s design) determines gender*
  - Embrace God’s Intricate Design – Psalm 139:13-15 – *praise Him and trust Him!*

#### b. Gender, Marriage, and Procreation

- i. Gen. 2:18 ~ not good for man to be alone, God creates woman as a helper suitable
- ii. Gen. 2:21-25 ~ God’s original design for marriage (the first wedding!)
  - One man and one woman who are joined in covenant as one flesh.
- iii. Marriage is the “grace of life” (1 Pet. 3:7)
- iv. Marriage illustrates Christ’s relationship to the Church (Eph. 5:25-32)
- v. *Summary: “Marriage has only one definition, and it is sanctioned by God: the union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:23–24). Marriage is to be a public, formal, and officially recognized covenant between a man and a woman. Prolonged conjugal cohabitation does not establish and is not equivalent to marriage (John 4:18).” (ECD, p. 235)*
- vi. Marriage is God’s Design for Procreation (Gen. 1:28 ~ “be fruitful and multiply...”)
- vii. How Fallen Man Corrupts God’s Design:
  - *Selfishness (a lack of sacrificial love and co-laboring mindset)*
  - *Refusing/avoiding procreation for selfish reasons*
  - *Divorce*
  - *Sexual Revolution*
    - Steps of the Sexual Revolution that Have Undermined Marriage (Al Mohler)
      - *Birth Control and Contraception (we can have sex without babies)*
      - *Normalizing Divorce (marriage shifts from being a covenant to a mere contract)*
      - *Advanced Reproductive Technologies (we can have babies without sex)*
      - *Cohabitation (sex without the covenant of marriage)*

#### c. Homosexuality

- i. Sobering Biblical Clarity on God’s Opposition to Homosexuality
  - God’s Severe Judgment on Sodom & Gomorrah in Gen. 18-19 (cf. Jude 7)
  - God’s Holiness Laws in Leviticus (18:22 & 20:13): *Homosexuality is an abomination!*
  - God’s Handing Over of Unbelievers in Romans 1 is Illustrated by Homosexuality
  - The Clear Warning AND Gospel Hope of 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
    - *Do not be deceived: “...homosexuals...will not inherit the kingdom of God...”*
    - *HOWEVER...such were some of you, BUT you were WASHED, sanctified, justified in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!!!! HE GIVES A NEW HEART!*

#### d. An Encroaching Error: Egalitarianism (no gender-based roles in the home or church)

- i. **Egalitarianism** is the position that argues that the Bible permits a woman to serve in the church in all the ways a man does—including serving as an elder/pastor.
- ii. **-vs- Complementarianism**, which holds that while men and women are equal in personhood, they are distinct and complementary in roles where God has made that clear.
  - *Ex: 1 Tim. 2:12 is clear that a woman is not to teach or exercise authority over men in the church; Eph. 5:22-24 is clear that wives are to submit to their husbands.*
- iii. *Warning: The same hermeneutic tactics that are used to reinterpret otherwise clear passages about God’s design for men and women’s distinct roles are used to biblically justify homosexuality.*

## II. Personhood

### a. Beginning of Personhood

- i. The biblical view is that *personhood begins at conception!*
- ii. Scientific fact corroborates this: *the fertilized egg contains a complete and fixed genetic structure (DNA). (ECD, p. 236).*
- iii. Passages that reveal Personhood in the Womb:
  - Job 3:3 ~ “*Let the day [of my birth] perish, And the night which said, ‘A man is conceived.’*”
  - Job 10:8-11 ~ “*...Your hands fashioned and made me altogether...You knit me together...*”
  - Ps. 139:13-17 ~ “*You formed my inward parts...you wove me in my mother’s womb...*”
  - Isa. 44:24 ~ “*Yahweh, your Redeemer...the One who formed you from the womb*”
  - Exod. 21:22-25 ~ *The principle of retaliation, including the death penalty (life-for-life)—is given to a man who strikes a pregnant woman so that the baby in her womb dies.*
- iv. By the biblical standard of personhood in the womb, abortion is MURDER.

### b. End of Human Life

- i. Death is the penalty of sin (Rom. 5:12)
- ii. Death is the final enemy (1 Cor. 15:26); the king of terrors (Job 18:14); the great equalizer
- iii. God is sovereign over death
  - 1 Sam. 2:6 ~ Yahweh puts to death and makes alive
  - Acts 17: 28 ~ in Him we live and move and have our being
  - Job 12:10 ~ In His hand is the life breath of every living thing
- iv. The Bible links death with a person’s final breath ~ Job 14:10; Gen. 25:8; Mark 15:37

### c. Destiny at Death

- i. Views:
  - Cessation of Existence [Naturalism/Materialism]—*once the body dies, that’s it.*
  - Continuation of the Soul Only – *the soul is immortal, no future bodily resurrection*
  - Annihilationism – *only believers possess eternal life, unbelievers will be annihilated*
  - Soul Sleep – *at death, one’s soul enters an unconscious sleep until future resurrection*
  - Reincarnation – *one’s soul inhabits another entity (human/animal)...cycles of Karma*
  - Intermediate State – *the soul lives in an intermediate state between death and resurrection*
- ii. Evaluation of the Views:
  - The view that best represents the biblical data is that at physical death, souls enter a conscious, **intermediate state** awaiting resurrection. *Three truths ground this:*
    - (1) The Human Possesses an Immaterial Soul (Matt. 10:28)
    - (2) An Intermediate State Exists (2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; Lk. 23:43)
    - (3) There is a Coming Resurrection (Job 19:25-26; Dan.12:2; 1 Ths. 4:13-18)

### d. Corruptions to God’s Design for Life and His Sovereignty Over Death: **Abortion; Suicide; Euthanasia**

### e. An Encroaching Error: *Annihilationism*

- i. Definition: *the view that unbelievers will not suffer eternal conscious punishment in hell, rather they will be irreversibly annihilated in judgment (cease to exist).*
- ii. Response: The biblical descriptions of hell indicate eternal conscience torment:
  - **The Case for Eternal Conscious Torment (Waymeyer)**
    1. *The Undying Worm and Unquenchable Fire in Isaiah 66:24*
    2. *The "Everlasting Contempt" of Daniel 12:2*
    3. *The "Eternal Fire" of Matthew 18:8*
    4. *The "Eternal Punishment" of Matthew 25:46*
    5. *The "Eternal Destruction" of 2 Thessalonians 1:9*
    6. *The Words "Forever and Ever" in Revelation 14:10-11*
    7. *The Words Forever and Ever" in Revelation 20:10*

### III. Man and Society

#### a. Ethnicity and Nations

- i. *A biblical theology of ethnicity and nations reveals the following truths and principles:*
  - All people of every ethnicity are made in the image of God.
  - No people group is superior or inferior to any other.
  - Racism is a heinous sin in that it denies full personhood to certain people groups, thus violating the dignity of all God's image bearers.
  - Israel was chosen to be the nation through which God would restore fallen humanity and bring salvation and restoration to all the world.
  - Salvation is provided to all through the ultimate Israelite, Jesus the Messiah, who will restore the nation of Israel and bring blessings to the Gentiles through salvation.
  - The death of Christ and the establishment of the new covenant bring unity to all who identify with Jesus. True racial unity and harmony are found only in Jesus the Messiah, not simply in education, social reform, legislation, or any other man-centered attempts.
  - The church should evidence racial harmony and serve as an example to the world of God's intention.
  - When Jesus returns, he will rule the nations from Israel and will bless all the nations (Isa. 27:6; Rom. 11:12).
  - In the eternal state, nations and governmental leaders will exist in harmony.<sup>1</sup>

#### SINFUL CORRUPTION: Racism and Prejudice.

#### b. Human Government

##### *A Summary from Two Key Passages: Rom. 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-14*

- God has appointed human government (Rom. 13:1-2) as his "servant" (Rom. 13:4). Government is part of God's common goodness to mankind.
- Since God appointed government, resisting government is resisting God. Those who resist its authority will be judged (Rom. 13:2).
- One purpose of government is "to punish those who do evil" (1 Pet. 2:14). Thus, the one in authority is "an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer" (Rom. 13:4). Government functions as God's mediator to curb evil.
- Government has the right to carry out capital punishment: "He does not bear the sword in vain" (Rom. 13:4). When Pilate told Jesus that he had the authority to crucify him (John 19:10), Jesus did not dispute this, but he did inform Pilate that his authority came from God: "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above" (John 19:11).
- Another function of government is to approve and praise those who do good (Rom. 13:3; 1 Pet. 2:14). Peaceful, law-abiding citizens need not fear the authorities. Few governments will harm those who obey their laws; rather, they seek to honor them.
- Government is a cause for "terror" to those who do bad things (Rom. 13:3). Those who break the law must be afraid of the consequent punishment. Even the most godless governments can deter criminal behavior.
- All people, and especially Christians, are to be "subject" to human government (Rom. 13:1, 5; 1 Pet. 2:13). The word "subject" was used of a soldier's absolute obedience to his superior. The one exception arises if obeying a civil command means disobeying a command of God (Ex. 1:7; Dan. 3:16-18; 6:7, 10). In this case, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).
- Obeying government eases one's conscience (Rom. 13:5).
- People are to pay taxes and show respect to governing authorities (Rom. 13:7). Jesus affirmed taxation when he said, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's" (Matt. 22:21).<sup>2</sup>

#### SINFUL CORRUPTION: Abuse of Power // Rebellion and Lack of Submission to Gov.

<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., [\*Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth\*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 442-43.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 443-44.

## c. Human Culture

- i. God Created Culture and Designs Us to Steward and Shape It (Gen. 1:28)

**SINFUL CORRUPTION: Lack of Cultural Stewardship // Idolizing Culture**

d. An Encroaching Error: *Christian Nationalism*

- i. Definition: *the view that Christians should actively seek to “take back”, or take over the government and culture in order to have a “Christian” nation, with a Christianized government and culture.*
- ii. Problems:
- *It lacks overall biblical support*
  - *it can appeal to the flesh (pride/autonomy/lack of self-control)*
  - *it can incite a rebellious attitude toward government*
  - *It can lead to sinful prejudice along ethnic lines*
  - *it can distract from the true mission of the church*
- iii. Response:
- the NT simply doesn't mandate anything resembling Christian nationalism. Instead, the clear teaching of the NT is that Christians should seek to submit to government unless they require us to disobey God, then we conscientiously (not violently/forcibly) defy the government.
  - We don't want to presume that humans can accomplish what only Christ will accomplish when He returns to reign in perfect righteousness.
  - We can steward our individual spheres of influence and responsibility to actively be a light, seek good and reform in the government, but Christianizing the nation, government, and culture is not the mission of the church.

Overview<sup>3</sup>:

| Gender                                                                                                                                 | Personhood                                                                                                                        | Society                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Created by God</b><br>(Gen 1:27; 2:7, 21-22; Matt 19:4)                                                                          | <b>1. Beginning of Life</b><br>(Ps 139:13-16; Ex 21:22-25; Job 3:3 Gen 25:21-22; Luke 1:41; Jer 1:5)                              | <b>1. Ethnicity and Nations</b><br>(Gen 10-11; 1:26-28; 9:1,19; 12:3; Rev 5:9; Acts 1:6-8; 17:26)                                 |
| <b>2. Marriage</b><br>Gen 2:18, 23-24; 1 Pet 3:7; Prov 18:22; Eph 5:22-33)                                                             | <b>2. End of Life</b><br>(Jam 2:26; Gen 2:16-17; 23:2; 50:1; Rom 5:12; Job 18:14; Heb 2:15; 1 Cor 15:26; Rev 20:14; 21:4; Ps. 90) | <b>2. Government</b><br>(Romans 13:1-7; 1 Pet 2:13-17; John 19:10; Rev 21:24,26)                                                  |
| <b>3. Procreation</b><br>(Gen 1:28, Gen 9:1,7)                                                                                         | <b>3. Destiny</b><br>(Heb 9:27; Phil 1:22-24, 3:21; 2 Cor 5:8; Luke 23:43; Acts 7:59-60; Rev 14:11; Matt 25:41,46)                | <b>3. Culture</b><br>(Gen 1-2; 2:15; 3; 4:21-22; 11; 37:13-17; 40:1-2; 41:53-57; Ex 31:2-6; Ps 150:3-5; 1 Kings 7-8; 10:4-5; Dan) |
| Man's Corrupts and Rebels                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                   |
| <i>Divorce, and Homosexuality</i><br>(1 Cor 6:9-10; Rom 1:26-27; Lev 18:22; 20:13; Gen 19)<br><i>Encroaching Error: Egalitarianism</i> | <i>Abortion, Suicide, Euthanasia,</i><br>(See 1. Beginning of Life) (Ps. 139 & 90)<br><i>Encroaching Error: Annihilationism</i>   | <i>Racism, Abuse of Power,</i><br>(Eph 2:11-22)<br><i>Encroaching Error: Christian Nationalism</i>                                |

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from table compiled by Timmy Vaughan for YBI