

ANTHROPOLOGY (Part 1)

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I. Introduction to Man

a. Importance of Anthropology

- i. Definition: **the study/doctrine of man** (Gk. *anthropos* (man) + *logos* (word/teaching))
- ii. Anthropology is how one answers the question “*what is man?*” (Key Text: **Psalms 8:3-8**)
- iii. At the heart of anthropology are the Great Questions of Life—the “Big Six”:
 1. Origin ~ *Where did I come from?*
 2. Meaning/Purpose ~ *Why am I here? What is my purpose?*
 3. Morality ~ *Why do I inescapably sense both good and evil?*
 4. Destiny ~ *What happens after I die? Why do I sense that there is life after death?*
 5. Identity ~ *Who am I? What makes my life significant and fulfilling?*
 6. God ~ *Why do I sense that God exists?*

b. Divine Sudden Creationism

- i. That nature of God’s creation:
 - Sudden (Instantaneous): *God said ‘Let there be light, and there was light...’*
 - Supernatural: *It was out-of-nothing (ex nihilo) ~ Heb. 11:3; Rom. 4:17*
 - Six (literal) Days: *God created man on the sixth day as His crowning act*
- ii. Implication: *Man is the result of God’s intentional and intimate design, not randomness.*

c. Adam as a Historical Person

- i. *Only a literal, historical interpretation can bear the weight of the descriptive data and the clear presupposition throughout Scripture that Adam was a real man.*
- ii. *This is foundational for understanding God’s redemptive plan for mankind.*

II. Created in God’s Image

a. Man Created Directly by God ~ “Let Us make man in Our image...” (Gen 1:26) – **Some Conclusions:**

- i. *Man is not autonomous (Ac. 17:28 ~ “in Him we live and move and have our being”)*
- ii. *Man is under obligation to God (Eccl. 11:9 ~ “...God will bring you to judgment”)*
- iii. *Man has a unique Role (Gen. 1:26-28 ~ “multiply...fill the earth...subdue it...”)*
- iv. *Man was created for God’s glory! (Isa. 43:6-7 ~ “[Everyone] whom I created for My glory”)*

b. Man as the Image of God (Imago Dei)

- i. **“Image”** (Heb. *tselem*) ~ copy; resemblance; representation.
- ii. **“Likeness”** (Heb. *demuth*) ~ pattern; shape; form; similitude.
- iii. Key Passage: Gen. 5:3 ~ Adam fathered “a son in his own **likeness**, according to his **image**...”

c. Implications of Humans Being Made in God’s Image

- i. Male and female (while distinct in gender) are equally created in God’s image (Gen. 1:27)
 - *This equality applies to all ethnicities, for they are all made from Adam (Acts 17:26)*
- ii. The fall did not erase the image of God in man (Gen. 5:1-3; Gen. 9:6; James 3:9)
- iii. We are made for Relationship – because God is a Triune Relationship! (John 5:20; 17:24)
- iv. Man is commanded to RULE and SUBDUE the earth (Gen. 1:26 and 28)

d. How is Man the Image of God?

- i. Three Main Views on Defining the Image of God:
 - **Substantive View:** *The image of God refers to that which is structural to man (physical, rational, psychological, spiritual, etc.).*
 - **Functional View:** *The image of God refers to that which man does (exercise dominion).*
 - **Relational View:** *The image of God refers to the ability of man to be in relationship with God and with others.*

- ii. Evaluation of the Views:
 - “It is probably best to understand that the image of God is **substantive or structural** to man and that function and relationship are the consequences of man being the image of God structurally. Since man is the image of God, he is able to exercise dominion and experience relationships. According to Genesis 1:26–28, man is made in God’s image (Gen. 1:26a), and **then** he is tasked with ruling and subduing the earth and being in relationship (Gen. 1:26b–28).” (ECD, p. 227)
 - HOWEVER...we shouldn’t imagine that we can narrowly define the image of God, for, “*All that makes one a human person is related to the image of God*.” (ECD, p. 227).
- iii. Important Characteristics of The Image of God that Set Us Apart from the Rest of Creation:
 - **Communication:** we can communicate our thoughts in coherent language.
 - **Relationships:** We can have personal and intimate relationships with God and others.
 - **Reason:** we can think and reason.
 - **Creativity:** we have a capacity to create, engineer, and produce things.
 - **Self-Reflection:** we can consciously reflect on our own existence and on reality.
 - **Volition:** we have a will and can make real decisions with real consequences.
 - **Dominion:** humans alone are given dominion over the rest of creation (Gen. 1:26-30).
 - **Moral Conscience:** we have an intrinsic sense of right and wrong (Rom. 2:14-15).
 - **Eternal Souls:** we have an awareness that we are eternal beings with souls (Eccl. 3:11).
 - **Knowledge of God:** we all possess a knowledge that our Creator God exists (Rom. 1:18).
- e. Jesus as the Image of God
 - i. **Col. 1:15** ~ *[He] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*
 - ii. **1 Cor. 15:45** ~ *He is the “Last Adam” (the true and better Adam, the Perfect Man!)*
 - iii. **Heb. 1:3** ~ *He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature*
 - iv. **Jn. 1:14** ~ *the Word became flesh...and we beheld His glory [as from the Father]*
 - v. **Jn. 14:9** ~ *Jesus said, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father”*
 - vi. “When we look at Jesus, we see everything God intended for man.” (ECD, p. 228)
 - **Rom. 8:29** ~ *He predestined us to be conformed to the image of his Son!*
 - **2 Cor. 3:18** ~ *We are being transformed into the same image...*
 - **1 Jn. 3:2** ~ *when He appears we shall be **like Him**, because we shall see Him as He is!!!!*
 - **1 Cor. 15:49** ~ *Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust [Adam], we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven!*

III. The Human Constitution

- a. Body ~ *the material part of man (the outer man)*
- b. Soul/Spirit ~ *the immaterial part of man (the inner man); the true self; survives death*
- c. Heart ~ *mission control center (thoughts, attitudes, motivations, and actions)*
- d. Conscience ~ *moral alarm system (alerting us to right and wrong, excusing or accusing us)*
- e. Mind ~ *The place of thought, judgment, resolve, and understanding (Trevor Craigen).*

IV. Three Views of the Human Constitution

- a. *Monism* ~ *Man is made up of one part (not separate parts) “radical unity” or simply “the self”*
- b. *Dichotomism* ~ *Man is made up of two parts: Body (material) and Soul/Spirit (immaterial)*
- c. *Trichotomism* ~ *Man consists of three parts: Body, Soul, Spirit (2 texts: Heb. 2:4; 1 Thess 5:23)*
- d. Evaluation of the Views ~ *Dichotomism is best, BUT with a clarification: “Complex Unity”!*

V. Why Does This Matter?

- a. A right view of self; A right relationship with God
- b. Evangelism; Biblical Counseling; Discipleship
- c. Parenting/Marriage/Singleness
- d. Work
- e. Protection of life!