

# Systematic Theology:

## Session Three

# Anthropology

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*Anthropology is the theological study of man. In this session we will cover the Nature of Man, the Image of God, and Sin and Its Results.*

## THE NATURE OF MAN

### The Creation of Man

#### I. Why was man created?

- Man was not created because God \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- Man was created for God's \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by My name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made.”*

Isaiah 43:7

*In Him we were chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory.*

Ephesians 1:11, 12

*“This guarantees that our lives are significant. If we were created to glorify God, then we are important to God Himself. This is the final definition of genuine importance or significance to our lives: If we are truly important to God for all eternity, then what greater measure of importance or significance could we want?”*

Wayne Grudem

#### 2. What is our \_\_\_\_\_ in life?

- Our purpose is to fulfill the reason that God created us for: to glorify Him.

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.*

1 Peter 4:10, 11

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

1 Corinthians 10:31

### The Purpose of the Body

#### I. The Bible makes a \_\_\_\_\_ between the material and the nonmaterial part of man.

*The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

Genesis 2:7

2. There are several views concerning the purpose of the body.
  - The body is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the soul.
  - The body is the only part of man that is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The body is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the soul.

### **The Composition of Man**

1. How many parts are there to man? Is man a Dichotomy (body and soul/spirit) or a Trichotomy (body and soul and spirit)?

2. The arguments for Dichotomy are:

- In many places Scripture uses the word “soul” and “spirit” \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Now is my soul troubled...”*

John 12:27

*After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in His spirit...*

John 13:21

*And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”*

Luke 1:46, 47

- People who have died and gone to heaven or hell can be called either “spirits” or “souls.”

*...the spirits of the righteous made perfect...*

Hebrews 12:23

*I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God...*

Revelation 6:9

- At \_\_\_\_\_, Scripture says either that the "soul" departs or the "spirit" departs.

*But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul is required of you...”*

Luke 12:20

*And as her soul was departing (for she was dying)...*

Genesis 35:18

*Remember Him before...the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.*

Ecclesiastes 12:6-7

*While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”*

Acts 7:59

- Man is said to be either “body and soul” or “body and spirit.”

*For as the body apart from the spirit is dead...*

James 2:26

*Fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Matthew 10:28

3. The arguments for Trichotomy are:

*May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

I Thessalonians 5:23

*The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Hebrews 4:12

*For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.*

I Corinthians 14:14

4. The following is a brief history of the development of the two views.

- The first century \_\_\_\_\_ were trichotomists.
- The early Church \_\_\_\_\_ were all trichotomists.
- The Western Church advocated dichotomy in response to the \_\_\_\_\_ heresy. Most of the Western Church remained dichotomists throughout the Middle Ages.
- The reformers Calvin and Luther took two different positions with Calvin remaining dichotomist and Luther embracing trichotomy.
- Beginning in the nineteenth century, various \_\_\_\_\_ movements (Keswick Convention, Holiness, Pentecostalism) embraced a trichotomist position.
- Most evangelicals and theologians are staunch dichotomists, attributing much of the excess they see in charismatic movements to their trichotomist views.

5. What should we believe? I recommend a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ approach. We could call it a “modified dichotomist view.” (Or, trichotomistic dichotomy!)

- We should hold to and emphasize the \_\_\_\_\_ view of man without excessive analyzing of his components.
- We should reject the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ of excessive trichotomy. Loving God with the mind honors God.
- We should reject the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ view of excessive dichotomy. Partnering with the Holy Spirit honors God.
- We should reject the potential \_\_\_\_\_ of both views that elevates the spirit or the mind over any part of the man.

## THE IMAGE OF GOD

*It should amaze us to realize that when the Creator of the universe wanted to create something more like Himself than all the rest of creation, He made us. This realization will give us a profound sense of dignity and significance as we reflect on the excellence of all the rest of God's creation: the starry universe, the abundant earth, the world of plants and animals, and the angelic kingdoms are remarkable, even magnificent. But we are more like our Creator than any of these things. We are the culmination of God's infinitely wise and skillful work of creation.*

Wayne Grudem

1. Man was created in the image of God and possesses characteristics that \_\_\_\_\_ him from the rest of creation. (Genesis 1:27) Man is qualitatively superior to everything else God created. That superiority manifests in at least four different areas.
  - \_\_\_\_\_: Man has the ability to think, reason, and learn. He can use complex, abstract language. He has an innate creativity that manifests in art, music, literature, scientific and technological inventiveness, and other forms of expression.
  - \_\_\_\_\_: Man can distinguish between right and wrong. He is morally accountable before God for his actions. Because of that accountability, he has an inner sense of right and wrong.
  - \_\_\_\_\_: Man has a longing for purpose and responsibility. He has immortality; he will not cease to exist but will live forever. He has not only a physical body but also an immaterial spirit, and he can act in ways that are significant in the spiritual realm of existence.
  - \_\_\_\_\_: Man can have a relationship with God. This means he can relate to God as a person, pray and praise Him, and hear Him speaking His words. He can develop relationships with other humans and experience community.
2. Even sinful man bears God's image and must be treated with all the \_\_\_\_\_ and respect that entails.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ is a failure to honor the image of God.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ is a failure to honor the image of God.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ is a failure to honor the image of God.
3. Redemption in Christ is a progressive \_\_\_\_\_ of more of God's image. At Christ's return there will be a complete restoration of God's image in His people.

*Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.*

1 Corinthians 15:49

## SIN AND ITS RESULTS

### The Origin of Sin

1. Sin is any failure to conform to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in act, attitude, or nature.
2. God is not the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin. (Job 34:10)
3. Sin began in the \_\_\_\_\_ realm. (Ezekiel 28:15)
4. All sin is equally bad. However, there are also \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.

*For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*

James 2:10

*So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."*

John 19:10, 11

### **The Fall of Man**

1. Adam and Eve determined they could decide what was true. This is \_\_\_\_\_. Ever since man has insisted he should be the ultimate arbiter of what is real knowledge and what is its source.
2. Adam and Eve determined they could decide what was right. This is \_\_\_\_\_. Ever since man has insisted he should be the ultimate arbiter of what is right and what is wrong.
3. Adam and Eve determined they could decide who they were. This is \_\_\_\_\_. Ever since man has insisted he should be the ultimate arbiter of who he is and what his place in the universe is.

### **The Results of Sin**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the result of sin. (Genesis 3:7)

- We are all counted guilty because of Adam's sin.

*Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.*

Romans 5:12

*For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*

I Corinthians 15:21, 22

2. A change in human \_\_\_\_\_ came as a result of sin. (Genesis 6:5)

*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.*

Romans 7:18

*"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately corrupt; who can understand it?"*

Jeremiah 17:9

3. Man is \_\_\_\_\_ separated from God and other men as a result of sin. (Isaiah 59:2)
4. The created order was \_\_\_\_\_ as a result of sin. (Romans 8:20-22)