

Pastor Jeremy M. Thomas
Fredericksburg Bible Church
107 East Austin
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
830-997-8834 jthomas@fbgbible.org

MAN/NATURE DISTINCTION

1. What are the two most profound distinctions in the Bible? Diagram these.
 - Creator-creature distinction
 - Man-Nature distinction
2. List the 4 points to the Unique Design of Man.
 - Man is Made in the Image of God in Both Body and Spirit
 - Man Through His Body Rules Nature
 - Man is Derived from Adam's Single Body
 - Man Through His Spirit Chooses, Judges, Loves and Knows
3. Why do we emphasize man's spirit is made in God's image?
 - Because the Bible also states that animals have a spirit (Gen 7; Eccl 3)
4. What are four evidences that all men have a human spirit?
 - Man chooses, judges, loves and knows
5. What four attributes of God do these evidences answer to?
 - God's sovereignty, holiness, love and omniscience
6. Alvin Plantinga in *God and Other Minds* pointed out that all the arguments against God's existence that say you can't feel Him, touch Him or see Him also deny what??? Why?
 - Man's existence. Because man's mind, not his brain, his mind can't be felt, touched or seen. So, a denial of God's existence for these reasons is also a denial of God's existence.
7. What do we mean when we say man has choice? Choice is axiomatic to man's creation. What do I mean by this statement?
 - We mean that man has control over the details of his life. Choice is axiomatic because all men are continuously

everywhere confronted with the inescapable revelation of God and must respond either positively or negatively, remaining in a state of rebellion

8. What do we mean when we say man has conscience? What is the basis of conscience? How do you detect someone's presuppositions? Why do people make judgments? What are you seeing when you discover someone's presuppositions?
 - When we say man has a conscience we mean that man judges (e.g. that's right, that's wrong). The basis of man's conscience, the archetype is God's holiness. You detect presuppositions by listening for universals, universal negatives, destructive claims. People make judgments because they are made in the image of God and therefore inevitably appeal to some transcendent authority. Their spirit is yearning for God. When you hear presuppositions you are hearing evidence of their human spirit.
9. What do we mean when we say man has love? How important is love to the human race? What is the basis for love? What kind of environment is necessary for love to operate?
 - We mean that man has a need for love and that need cannot be met by nature, it requires another human spirit (Gen 2:18). Love is necessary and powerful. Music, poetry, novels, movies always involve love. The basis for love is God's love. They are similar but different. A non-threatening, safe environment.
10. What do we mean when we say man has knowledge? What is the basis for human knowledge? What's the man-nature difference here? What is deconstructionism? What is the central component of human knowledge? Describe how we know language is limited. What have people done since language is limited and what is the Christian answer to this supposed dilemma? What modern church movement is falling out of this down-play of language?
 - That man through sensory perception and reason can know, that he speaks in human language. The basis of human knowledge is God's omniscience. The man-nature difference is that man has propositional language, conceptual thought. Deconstructionism states that language is not an adequate vehicle for communicating truth. We know language is limited because of semantic paradoxes like the Cretan puzzle, "I am lying." The word "long" which is not long,

Russell's Paradox, Godel's incompleteness theorems, "Have you stopped beating your wife?", et. al). The central component of human knowledge is language. Language is limited because you can create logical binds, the most famous of which is the Cretan paradox. Since language is limited poets and artists suggested that we go over to mysticism to get truth because language can't communicate truth. The Christian answer is, "yes, our language is limited but God's language is not. There is a meta-language behind our language which serves as the archetype." The modern church is moving from a seeker-sensitive model to the emergent church, which is a mystical approach which emphasizes emotion and feeling while dispensing of doctrinal teaching from the Scriptures. Anytime you have a downplaying of the teaching of the word of God mysticism has come in.

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