

THE DOCTRINE OF MAN (THE NATURE OF MAN)

We have studied so far: The Word (Inerrant and Sufficient), God (Attributes)

What God thinks most important (Revealed through His Word).

Recommended Books: Wayne Grudem Systematic Theology, Louis Berkhof's Systematic Theology, Paul Washer-The Truth About Man

Aspects of humanity I will not be addressing today:

- Male vs Female-Roles/Responsibilities/Similarities/Differences as it pertains to individuals, marriage, in the church (Complementarian vs Egalitarian)
- Nature of man as it pertains to body/soul/spirit: Trichotomy vs Dichotomy

We must allow Scripture to dictate our doctrine. Not experience, not culture, but as God has revealed in His Word. We must allow Scripture to correct our doctrine, and sharpen our doctrine (always reforming).

Everyone in this room has too low of a view of God and too high of a view of man (namely self).

The origin of man

In the creation account in Genesis 1 we find our origin.

Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

The Hebrew term translated "man" is Adam

We are created beings. That alone should tell us something about ourselves. We are NOT self-sufficient. The fact that we are created should humble each of us. Every man's conscience bears witness that we are accountable to our Creator (Rom 1)

Why did God create man?

Not because He was lonely (God is eternally self-sufficient). He does not need anything else. Within His own being (triune), for all eternity past He has existed and has been full of joy. He did not create man out of need, but rather He created man for His own glory.

Isaiah 43:7 *everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.*

He created us for His glory, and therefore if we are going to fulfill our created purpose, we are to "*Do all things to the glory of God*" **1 Cor 10:31**

Catechism says “The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever” (or better “by enjoying Him forever. God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.)

We noted earlier in Gen 1:27 that God created mankind “in his own image” –What does this mean?

Man is made in the image of God:

Although Scripture doesn’t give an explicit orderly list for us, we can see how we are different from the rest of creation and grasp some areas where we are made in the image of God.

Intellectually, morally/ethically, relationally, creativity, immortality, dominion over creation.

Prior to the fall (Gen 3) man is made in the image of God, has dominion over all creation, and is in unique and intimate fellowship with God. Unfortunately, it did not stay good for very long.

In Genesis 3-We have the account of the Fall

It was a great fall (All of creation is impacted Rom 8)-Sin and death enter into the world.

The wages of sin is death -**Gen 2:17** *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*” (Rom 6:23)

Adam and Eve did not die immediately. God (pointing forward to a covering/substitute/shed blood) killed an animal(s), took the skin and covered Adam and Eve’s nakedness before they were banished from the garden.

How did the fall impact mankind: Two ways specifically:

- 1) **First it has changed our standing with God:** God is holy (Is 6) and can have nothing to do with sin. They were banished after one sin, and fellowship was broken.
 - Adam is our representation before God (Whether we like this or acknowledge it, it is true) –God, being God, determines what is right/just. (By what standard would man dare judge God)?
 - **Romans 5:12-21** (Verb tense aorist-Completed past action, and Paul applies it to “all” men) Born of seed of man. (This is why Jesus is not born of the seed of a man, but of the Holy Spirit)
 - i. Imputation of Sin, guilt and condemnation

- 2) **Second it has changed our nature-**Anyone born after the seed of man is not only guilty and condemned in Adam, but is totally depraved (nature/heart).
 - Totally depraved does NOT mean that we are living to our fullest capacity of sin, but that in every way we are impacted (negatively) by Adam’s sin.

Survey of Scripture to glean a picture of God's view of fallen humanity and the impact of sin on them:

- Gen 5:3 “When Adam had lived 130 year, he fathered a son *in his own likeness*, after his image.” (The image of God is distorted bc of sin, but not totally lost)
- Gen 6:5 (Note key word “every intention”, “heart”, “only evil”, “continually”-A universal depiction of man (from God's perspective, and He know us better than we do).
- Ps 51:5 “In sin did my mother conceive me” (Context is David for the whole chapter, not his mother). At the moment of conception sin is present in our make-up. We are born sinners, so we live true to our fallen nature and we sin.
- Ps 58:3
- Rom 3:10-18 Universal picture of man (Jew and Greek)-Most clear picture of the nature of fallen man
 - 1 Cor 2:14-Understanding (natural man unable to understand)
- Eph 2:1-3,
- Rom 8:7-8 (Hostility towards God)
- Jer 17:9-Fallen man's works
- Man in his fallen nature inherited from Adam is unable (ability-dead in sin) and unwilling (propensity-lovers of darkness) to turn to God on our own

Seeing a Biblical picture of man in his fallen state, should help us answer the question “What comes first repentance and faith or regeneration?”

- Regeneration comes first (Lazarus John 11:38-44 physical picture of our spiritual reality)
- Dead (spiritual) men don't respond (Eph 2:1-5)

Man from birth (bc of the fall) is a sin-loving, God hating, spiritually dead being. Although made in the image of God, left to ourselves we neither have the capacity (ability) nor inclination (desire/will) to turn from sin to God. We are slaves to sin (Rom 6)

We desperately need a Savior who can not only save us from the penalty of our sins, but can save us from ourselves. Sin is not a problem “out there” it is an innate endemic problem in us (meaning it is in our make-up/nature and as a result we are totally depraved).

What hope do we have?

Savior (Guilt/Condemnation) and Regeneration (spiritual life through work of the Holy Spirit)