

Theology

Our Saviour Evangelical Free Church

The Doctrine of Man

Key Concepts:

- The essential nature of man
- The weight of sin

Pages covered in *Bible Doctrine* by Wayne Grudem: 187-226

Review from Session 3

Summarize the Old Earth and Young Earth positions. What are some of the theories and explanations given to support each claim?

What is the relationship between God's decrees and human actions? Why pray, evangelize, or do mission work?

The Imago Dei

What does it mean to be created in the image of God? (Read Gen. 1:26-27)

We represent God and are made in His "likeness." This does not necessarily mean that God has two eyes, ears, legs, and feet, but rather that we are able to emulate God to a much greater extent than other created things. According to Grudem, just like a son is like his father, so we are like God. In all the ways we are like God, we resemble Him.

"Every single human being, no matter how much the image of God is marred by sin or illness, or weakness, or age, or any other disability, still has the status of being in God's image, and therefore must be treated with the dignity and respect that is due to God's image-bearer."

- Grudem, *Systematic Theology* p. 450

Male and Female

The creation of man as male and female shows God's image in...

1. Harmonious personal relationships...
2. Equality in personhood and importance, and...
3. Difference in role and authority.

Biblically understanding the role of men and women:

Grudem identifies many differences in the roles of Adam and Eve *before the Fall*. As you examine Genesis 1-3:1, what are they?

- Adam was created first, then Eve
- Eve was created as a helper for Adam
- Adam named Eve
- God named the human race "man," not woman.
- The serpent came to Eve first
- God spoke to Adam first after the fall
- Adam, not Eve, represented the human race
- The curse brought a distortion of previous roles, not the introduction of new roles

Excurses: The Fall and its Results in Relationships Between Men and Women

When God tells Eve her desire shall be for her husband and he will rule over her, God isn't saying that Eve will have a pure desire for Adam, but rather, she will be far too consumed with his affection and he will have power over her because of it. God does not have in mind here the kind of rule that a loving husband has as he leads his wife well. God means a natural break will be between men and women that will cause pain for women. As for Adam, its even worse...Adam will die (so will Eve, but it's on Adam). He will work hard, all his life, but will have virtually nothing to show for it, because no matter how hard he works, he will die.

The Essential Nature of Man

The Bible uses three words to describe the nature of a person: body, soul, and spirit.

Trichotomy: All three of these mean something different, therefore man is made up of three different parts.

Dichotomy: Man is made up of two different parts (soul/spirit) are used interchangeably.

Monism: A person is only made up of one element. All those words speak of the same entity.

Which passages are the most significant:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 **Paul is piling on synonyms**
- Hebrews 4:12 **emphasis, not literal**
- 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:4 **spiritual should be thought of as Spiritual, guided by the HS**
- 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 **Paul does not always understand the content of what he is praying.**
- Romans 8:10

Conclusion: I believe a dichotomy seems to be the most logical stance, however, a person who believes in a trichotomy certainly has valid arguments and can be thoroughly Biblical.

Sin

Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature.
 – Grudem, page 210

Where does sin come from?

1. Inherited sin: **We are guilty because Adam was guilty**
2. Inherited corruption: **From Adam we have a nature that is sinful**
3. Committed sin: **Each of us willingly and knowingly commits sin**

What is Total Depravity?

(material adapted from *Systematic Theology* by Louis Berkhof)

Total Depravity is NOT:

1. that every man is as thoroughly depraved as he can possibly become
2. that the sinner has no innate knowledge of the will of God, nor a conscience that discriminates between good and evil
3. that sinful man does not often admire virtuous actions in fellow men
4. that every unregenerate person will indulge in every form of sin

Total Depravity is:

1. that the inherent corruption extends to every part of man's nature, both soul and body
2. that there is no spiritual good in the sinner

The result is the total inability, on his/her own, for a person to see the glorious grace of God, it must be shown to them. However, once it is fully shown to them, a person will be stirred to accept it in an irresistible way.

Discussion & Application Questions

Are you challenged to remember that every person is made in the image of God? In what areas have you been guilty of treating people with less respect, kindness, and gentleness than they deserve?

If you are a man you have been given the responsibility of leadership. How will you steward that responsibility well and what will you do to love those God has given you leadership over better? If you are a woman, how can you encourage Godly leadership where it does or does not exist?

Spend a moment contemplating the weight and the extent of your own sin. Try to put it into words as a confession before the Lord. Does a greater awareness of the fullness of your sin cause you to worship God more for His grace in your life? Why or why not? If so, how are you moved to worship Him?

Pages for next session: 229-236, 248-255, 261-268, 281-285. These are the sections on the person of Jesus Christ, a few pages on the atonement, the resurrection, and the beginning of the Doctrine of Redemption starting with election.