

APPROVED UNTO GOD

THE DOCTRINE OF HUMANKIND AND SIN

- I. Anthropology = the study of humankind
- II. What does the Bible say about humankind?

- A. Genesis 1:26-31;

“Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground. Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground— everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning - the sixth day.”

Psalm 8:3-8

- ³ When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
- ⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?
- ⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.
- ⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:
- ⁷ all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
- ⁸ the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.

1. Created in the image of God
2. Power to rule, keeper of the world
3. Was created very good
4. Was created to be fruitful and increase in number

B. Genesis 2:15-25

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will certainly die.’ The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’ ...So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.”

1. Woman was taken from man's rib -- to to complement each other

Genesis 2:18 “...a helper suitable for him...”

2. Given choice - free will
3. Genesis 3:8-9 - Close relationship between God and humankind in the beginning

III. What does it mean to be created in "God's image"?

- A. Isaiah 1:18 - Created with reason/intelligence .

“Come now, let us settle the matter,’ says the Lord.”

- B. Romans 12:15 - Created with emotions/empathy .

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”

- C. Deuteronomy 30:19-20 - Created with ability to choose, make decisions, created with a free will (so that we could choose to love God). (See also: I Corinthians 10:13)

“This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” (Deuteronomy 30:19-20)

Free will - “Freedom, then, is not the absence of limitations and constraints but is finding the right ones, those that fit our nature and liberate us.” Pastor Tim Keller, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Manhattan, NY.

Meaning *free will* is not that anything and everything goes, but what really frees us is the love of Christ. By, there is no condemnation, we are new creations, we are forgiven, redeemed etc...

Going against conventional wisdom, the presence of Evil and Free Will means there has to be a God.

2 Cor 5:14 “For Christ’s love compels us...” NKJV or ESV “controls us”

John 14:21 "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

Psalms 119:11 "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

- D. Acts 24:16 - Created with the ability to know right from wrong; created with a conscience.
"... keep my conscience clear before God and man."

Romans 2:14 "Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law."

- E. The above four items (A-D) separate us from animals and objects.
F. Because we are made in the image of God, every person has value.

IV. Fall of Man

- A. Genesis 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

1. Sin begins when we listen to someone other than God.

2. Eve was tempted.
James 1:13-17 "When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

3. Eve and Adam sinned.

- B. Genesis 3:6

"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."

1. Sin is a conscious decision.
2. Sin is an unconscious decision.
I.e. speeding, a slip in a conversation

C. Genesis 3:7-24

"Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

The man said, "The woman you put here with me - she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree... Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground."

So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden.

1. Cursed

a) The serpent - cursed with enmity between various animals.

b) The ground - cursed with thorns and thistles.

2. Judgment

a) The Woman - *pain in childbearing and relationship with man*

b) The Man - *painful toil of the cursed ground*

3. Separation - God separated man from Himself.

4. Death - Genesis 5:5

Altogether, Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.

V. What does the Bible say about sin?

A. Origin - John 8:44; (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ephesians 6:10-12) Satan.

John 8:44 "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Eph. 6:10-12 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh

and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

(Explaining Satan) Isaiah 14:12-15 12 “How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.”

B. Definition of sin

1. 1 John 3:4 - Going against God and His will

“Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.”

2. Romans 3:23 - "Falling short" of living Godly lives.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

3. James 4:17 - Failing to do the good we know we should do.

“If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.”

C. Transmission - Romans 5:12-21; Romans 3:10-21; Isaiah 53:6

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned...But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ...For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”

1. Started with Adam/Eve.

2. Domino effect - sinful nature passed on from one generation to the next.

D. Evidence of sin

1. John 3:19-20 seek darkness.

“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.”

2. Romans 1:21 harden hearts and minds.

“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

3. Jeremiah 17:9 deceptive hearts.

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”

E. Results

1. Physical Death
2. Second Death - eternal separation from God.

VI. What is the purpose of humankind?

"To glorify God and enjoy Him forever" Westminster Catechism

Modern day definition of "Glorifying God:" To be like a well-polished mirror of God's truth to the world

VII. What does all this mean to me?

- A. I am a person of value. (See Psalm 139)
Psalm 139:16-18 "Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand - when I awake, I am still with you."
- B. I am a sinner in need of a Savior.
- C. In Christ, I am a new creation.
2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!"

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MEMORY VERSE #4

*This is what God the Lord says—
the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,
who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,
who gives breath to its people,
and life to those who walk on it:
Isaiah 42:5*

Commentary

This verse refers to people who belong to God. Verse one from this chapter starts this theme:

“But now, this is what the Lord says - he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.’”

This is an assurance God gave Israel that they were his people. Likewise, Christ gives Christians the same assurance:

“My sheep listen to my voice, I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.”
John 10:27-28

Also in Romans 1:6, Paul writes on this theme to the Christians there:

“And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.”

Easy Memorization Breakdown

- ⇒ Isaiah 42:5
- ⇒ *This is what God the Lord says—*
- ⇒ *the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out* whom I formed and made.
- ⇒ *who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,*
- ⇒ *who gives breath to its people,*
- ⇒ *and life to those who walk on it:*
- ⇒ Isaiah 42:5

Practice writing the verse

(Remember to write the reference, too!)