

A decorative border with a light beige background and a thin, dashed line. The border features intricate floral and branch illustrations in a matching light beige color, framing the central text.

CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY

PART 1

Agenda

Introduction

Creation of Mankind

Unity of Mankind

Nature of Mankind



Introduction: Approaches to Anthropology



Three Approaches

- Empirical
 - “What is man?”
 - Origins, biology, psychology, social studies
- Philosophical
 - “Who is man?”
 - Ethics, liberties, materialism, naturalism, existentialism, Marxism, societies
- Theological
 - “Who is man?” ...in relation to God, as both fallen and restored
 - Soteriology (salvation) and hamartiology (sin)

Creation of Mankind



[Macro]Evolution

- Imperative God is behind whatever means of creation
- Not supported by the Bible scripturally
 - But on that note...
- Thought-provoking questions:
 - Theory vs. fact
 - Why need an explanation?
 - Does it hinder or enhance our faith?
 - **Are we tailoring Christianity to conform to our beliefs?**

Created by God in His image

- Two genders: male and female
- Opposed to “let there be...”
- Genesis 1:26-27 → Image AND Likeness
 - Image – “Tselem” meaning “representation”
 - Likeness – “Demut” meaning “similarity”
 - Created as a representative similarity of God!
- Jesus bore that same image on earth!

Before the Fall...

- Man and woman created righteous and blameless, like God! (Ecc. 7:29)
- Not possessing the image of God, but *is* the image and likeness of God (1 Cor. 11:7)
- Natural image vs. Moral image
 - (See next slide)

Two images

- Natural
 - Personal being, like the Trinity
 - Having intellect and reason, like God
 - Emotions, desires and a will, like God
 - Immortal before the Fall, like God and angels
 - Eternal, like God
- Moral
 - Possessing knowledge, righteousness and holiness before Fall
 - After Fall, law still written on our hearts (Rom. 2:14-15) and we still know Him (Rom. 1:21)
 - What was lost, Christ restores! (Eph. 4:24, Col. 3:10)

After the Fall...

- Man's image not completely lost from the Fall
 - Beget Seth (Gen. 5:3)
 - Post-flood covenant with Noah (Gen. 9:6)
 - When we curse... (Jas. 3:9)
- Although likeness (i.e. righteousness) is tainted by sin

Man's Purpose

- Man charged with dominion over the earth

“...’Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’” ~Genesis 1:26

Why? Because they were made in God's image and likeness!

- Command given before the Fall
- Humans set apart from the rest of creatures, privileged

Unity of Mankind



The HUMAN Race

- All humans of same origin and kind
- Adam the father of all nations (Acts 17:26)
 - Only ONE race!
- Tribes and nations, not races
- Because of this unity, sin propagated to all humans
- Likewise, all humans saved through one man (Christ)

Nature of Mankind



Creationist Background

- Humans are material and immaterial
 - Material – man from the dust, and woman from man (body)
 - Immaterial – life breathed from God (soul)

Body and Soul

- Separable
 - Jas. 2:26 – body without the spirit is dead
 - Ecc. 12:7 – soul returns to God
 - 2 Cor. 7:1 – Paul’s charge to not pollute either
- Body finite, soul eternal

About the Material

- Fall → mortal body → sinful nature attached and exerted on body
- Body itself not evil (gnostic view)
- Future body like Christ's glorified (Phil. 3:21)
- Conflict between sin nature and Spirit, not body and soul (Gal. 5:17)

Origins of the Soul

- 4 positions:
 - Pre-existence – largely Platonic, not accepted in Church
 - Creationist – soul created by God at conception
 - Traducian – soul created with the body by generation from parents, propagation
 - Emergentism – soul naturally emerges when brain reaches a certain complexity, materialistic in origin

Body, Soul and Spirit

- Unitary / Monism – we make up a body and that's it!
- Dichotomy – soul and spirit synonymous
 - Matt. 10:28, previous examples
- Trichotomy – soul and spirit are separate
 - Body = *soma* – world-conscious
 - Soul = *psuché, psyche* – self-conscious
 - Spirit = *pneuma* – God-conscious
 - 1 Thes. 5:23, Heb. 4:12

Psalm 8:3-8

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

Group Discussions

Credits:

The Doctrine of Man MEBS Notes. Dr. Lescelius

Dr. William Craig lecture notes

