



Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

TOPIC 4 – THE DOCTRINE OF MAN

LESSON 75 – INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

BIBLICAL DOCTRINE – JOHN MACARTHUR, PGS. 399-451

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY – WAYNE GRUDEM, PGS. 439-528

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Anthropology

- ▶ David looked at creation and then against that grand and great backdrop asked, “What is man?”
- ▶ Psalm 8:3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, 4 What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.
- ▶ The study of humanity is called anthropology – the Greek term Anthropos means “man.”
- ▶ Who better to teach us about mankind than the One who created us? A God-centered approach is required for a proper understanding of humanity, otherwise with a man-centered perspective we cannot come to a truthful conclusion.

Why is Anthropology Important?

- ▶ 1. Anthropology is a topic where the student studies himself.

It answers basic but ultimate questions like “Who am I?” or “Why am I here?”

- ▶ 2. Created on the sixth day of creation, man is the highpoint of God’s creation.

Berkhof states, “Man is represented as standing at the apex of all created orders.”

- ▶ 3. We can better understand our relationship to God.

Since we are created in God’s image, we learn how we are supposed to act and relate to God.

Why is Anthropology Important?

- ▶ 4. A biblical anthropology helps us directly address issues like abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, transgenderism, and environmentalism.

A faulty view of man and of God results in confusion and sinful choices.

- ▶ 5. A biblical view of man helps us refute false philosophies.

Man is not an accidental product of chance and time without an intentional design or purpose. Yet biblically we see that man is a direct creation of a personal God who designed man with dignity and purpose to serve God.

In the Beginning

- ▶ The creation of the universe and of man was not a long process.
- ▶ The power and glory of God were manifest in a sudden creation.
- ▶ The world came to exist as God spoke it into existence, made from nothing.
- ▶ Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.
- ▶ Romans 4:17 ...God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did...

In the Beginning

- ▶ The majesty of creation reflects God's power, glory, and dominion.
- ▶ Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.
- ▶ Creation was instant and not a drawn out, “evolving” process. Man did not grow into the image of God, he was created in the image of God from the very beginning.

Adam as a Historical Person

- ▶ The most natural understanding of the creation account is Genesis shows us that God created a specific person and called him Adam (man).
- ▶ Genesis chapter 2 elaborates on the process of creation and introduces us to the first woman, Eve, also created suddenly and complete.
- ▶ The genealogy of Genesis 5 show us Adam as a historical person through the lineage of Noah.
- ▶ The New Testament and even Jesus refer to Adam as a real person and base their understanding of several doctrinal issues on his existence as revealed in the Word of God.

Adam as a Historical Person

- ▶ The historicity of Adam is not a trivial matter. A literal Adam is foundational for understanding the origin and history of the human race, the nature of humanity, the origin of sin, the beginning of human and animal death, the need for salvation, the basis for historical events in Genesis, the reason for functional order within society and the church, and even the future of the existence of mankind.

The Doctrine of Man

▶ Lessons for this topic include:

75. Introduction to Anthropology

76. Created in God's Image

77. Being Human

78. A Living Soul

79. Created Male and Female

80. Person-hood

81. Death

82. Society and Culture