

141008w What is Man?

Introduction:

- “*What are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?*” (Psalm 8:4, NLT)
- Whether God is real, we may debate; but we cannot debate the reality of man.
- When I speak of man, I mean both male and female...Adam. (Food for thought: Originally, woman was not under man’s dominion. She was his companion. Man’s dominion over her was a consequence of her sin.

I. Views of Man

- A. Materialistic - made up of water and minerals about \$8-15 dollars worth.
- B. Biological view - animal with highly developed nervous system, we are biological in a nature.
- C. Psychological - formed by hereditary and environment and all we do are determined by that.
- D. Economic - Hunger drive in man is basic and that is what drives us. Society functions accordingly. This is where Karl Marx began.
- E. Sociological view - Society is a great begin shaped by all these different individuals relating to each other.
- F. Philosophical view
- G. Existential view
- H. View of man from God’s perspective. Or, what is the divine revelation of who man is? Through revelation, there is a theological understanding of who man is. This revelation comes from God. He wants us to know who we are.

II. Man is Created in God’s Image

- A. “*So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*” (Genesis 1:27, NOT)
- B. Man's view from God’s vantage point is seen as the creature that is between God and the world. He lives between two realms. So, man is above the animal world.
 1. Man exists as a fresh creation separate from the rest of creation. Yes, he was created, but his dimension is above plants and animals. There is a qualitative difference between man and animals, man and plants.
 2. Note: Gen 1:24 and 25. God said, and God made vs. “Let us Make, human beings in our image to be like us!”
 3. With those verses is continuity with the past but a total discontinuity. Man is a new creation, not just surpassing what was before, but formed in a totally different way and reason.
- C. Man is below God.
 1. Man is far above all other creation but far below God. Back to Ps 2:4 “*What is man that you are mindful of him?*” Yet, Ps 8:5 “*You made him a little lower than the angels.*”
 2. Being under God is not only a position, but it is statement that we are to function under God's leadership and direction. We are not autonomous/self-ruled. It is a privilege to be under God.

III. Man’s Function in Creation

- A. The basic function of man in creation is to reflect God...on earth and in the cosmos. Note Gen 5:1-2. Adam's children are made in his image. Therefore, man is to God as Seth is to Adam.
- B. Man is to reflect God’s dominion.
 1. Gen 1:26 “*Let them have dominion.*”
 2. “*You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority—*” (Psalm 8:6, NLT)
 3. According to Heb 2:8 God left nothing out of his control. Man is just under God and this is grand position of glory. We have truly been crowned with glory and honor.
 - a) He is over the inorganic world - the elements, gold, onyx etc.
 - b) He is over the organic world of plants, all manner of vegetation and trees.

141008w What is Man?

c) He is over the animal world, land and sea. That he named the animals is a declaration of dominion.

C. Man is to reflect God's being.

1. Gen 1:26 *“Let us make human beings* in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”*
2. We are bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh in the earth. We are His expression in the earth.
3. Male and Female express...relationship. Let us make! Gods very being is relational in nature. Existence in community is part of true humanity. Therefore, the sacredness of God enters into how we relate to one another. One who destroys another destroys the image of God.
 - a) *“Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,”* (Colossians 1:15, NLT)
 - b) He is also head of the church, and marriage is to reflect this relationship. Eph 5:25 Husbands love your wives as Christ loves the church. The third partner in all of this is God!!!

D. Man is to reflect God's character.

1. God desires to have on earth the reflection of His own character.
2. His holiness and righteousness. Eph 4:23-24. This is not stated in Gen 2, but it is apparent after Gen 3 that man moved to a lower realm of existence after sinning.
3. God is also a God of love and therefore man, made in His image is to reflect that love.
4. Heb 1:3 Jesus is the express image of God. 1 Cor 15:45 Jesus is called the second Adam.
5. Again, to be man means that we must be in relationship with one another. In so doing we reflect God.
6. God is also a God of truth. Col 3:9-10. To be renewed is to be renewed in truth.

E. Man is the only creature into whom God breathed His life.

Conclusion:

- It is important to have knowledge of God.
- It is vitally important that we have knowledge of man.
- We need to know what we were created for, or created to, in order to find our purpose and place in life.