

Systematic Theology 1 | Lukus Counterman | Sept 8, 2019

Anthropology – The Doctrine of Humanity

THE NATURE OF MAN

What are some of the primary ways that a Christian anthropology is distinct from a non-Christian one?

HOW MANY PARTS MAKE UP THE WHOLE?

While all Christians agree about the material component of human nature (that we have a body), there is disagreement over the immaterial component. There are two major views about the complex nature of humans.

- _____ believes human nature consists of 3 aspects 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb 4:12.
- _____ believes human nature consists of 2 aspects Matt 10:28; 1Cor 5:3, 5; Luke 1:46-47; John 12:27; 13:21.
- _____ believes that the properties that used to be considered the realm of the soul (consciousness, rationality, morality, faith) are ultimately explained by physical processes in the brain and central nervous system.

MANKIND AS FREE OR DETERMINED

Some see human nature as free, others see it as determined by outside, uncontrollable forces, and finally some embrace a Christian view of human nature.

CREATED OR A PRODUCT OF NATURAL EVOLUTION

THE IMAGE OF GOD

- The _____ view considers the image of God as a characteristic such as rationality, free will, moral consciousness, reason.
- The _____ view considers the image of God to be some human activity like exercising dominion, being stewards of creation, worshiping, serving, loving, ruling.
- The _____ view considers the image of God to be the experience of community that people enjoy amongst themselves.
- I believe the image of God in humans is the gift of a capacity for a particular type of personal relationship; primarily a relationship with God, but a right relationship with God should lead to right relationships with others.

- Jesus is the perfect image of God. So we can know both who God is and what God's design is for us by knowing Jesus' character, relationships, and activities from Scripture.

THE FALL AND ITS IMPACT

It is interesting to note that after the Fall, certain things surface that were not present in man before sin. There is a deep sense of _____ (Gen. 3:7), a fear came over man (Gen. 3:10), and there was an evasion of responsibility (Gen. 3:10). Man went from the state of being "able not to die" to now "not able not to die" (Gen. 3:19). _____ passed upon all men. If the grace of God had not intervened, death in all three senses – physical, spiritual, and eternal would have been the lot of every human being.

The change was radical – after sin, man had pervasive _____ and spiritual inability. The corruption of sin extended to every aspect of human nature – to one's reason and will as well as one's appetites and impulses.

ADDITIONAL NOTES