

Systematic Theology Worksheet

Anthropology (The Doctrine of Man)

Biblical Anthropology vs. Secular Anthropology:

Secular Anthropology will NOT discuss crucial areas of:

- How does man relate to his Creator?
- What is the chief purpose of man?

Biblical Anthropology DOES answer these crucial questions:

- Psalm 19:1
- Psalm 8:4-8

Outline of Biblical Anthropology:

1. The Origin of Man
2. Man Created in God's Image (Imago Dei)
3. The Human Constitution (What are we made up of?)

1. The Origin of Man:

- a. Secular Anthropology holds that man was created millions of years ago. The Bible explains that we were created much more recently.
 - Gen. 1:26
 - Exo. 20:8-11
 - Mark 10:6
- b. Adam and Eve were real people:
 - Adam and Eve were not just figureheads or representatives of humanity, they were literal, historical people!
 - Gen. 2:7 tells us that Adam was created by God from the ground; he didn't evolve from another animal.
 - Gen. 2:21-22 teaches that Eve was fashioned out of Adam.
 - The Bible always affirms that they are literal people:
 1. Gen. 4:1-2; 5:1-3; 1 Chron. 1:1; Luke 3:38; Rom. 5:12, 14, etc.
 2. That means that there is only one race: the human race.

2. Man Created in God's Image (Imago Dei):

- a. Gen. 1:26: "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."
 - Image (*tselem* in Hebrew) = monument, statue, or replica
 - Likeness (*demuth* in Hebrew) = pattern, form, shape, or image

- b. Ways in which we are created in the Image of God (taken from Biblical Doctrine):
- Ontologically – “man is a living, personal, self-conscious, active being with personality.”
 - Volitionally – “man has a will and the ability to select between various choices. He can discern right from wrong.”
 - Intellectually – “Man has a rational mind. He is aware of himself, his environment, others, and God.”
 - Emotionally – “A human experiences a wide range of emotions and feelings, such as fear, anger, guilt, anxiety, regret, shame, happiness, and joy.”
 - Relationally – “Man is equipped to participate in relationships with God and with other people.”
 - Functionally – “Man has what he needs to fill, rule, and subdue the earth on God’s behalf for His glory.”
- c. Though we were created in the image of God, the fall in Gen 3 caused us, as humans, to have that image tainted, though not destroyed (Eph. 2:1-3).
- That doesn’t mean that we completely lack the ability to be God’s image bearers. Those qualities may have been distorted, but they were not altogether obliterated.
- d. There is One who has never marred that image, and that of course, is Jesus Christ (Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3)
- He is perfect; He is the ultimate picture of what it means to be the Imago Dei.
 1. Col. 1:15
 2. Heb. 1:3

3. The Human Constitution (What are we made up of?):

Are we made up of: Just a body? Body and Soul (Dichotomy)? Or Body, Soul and Spirit (Trichotomy)?

My analysis: we are a “complex unity” of the body, soul and spirit, and that they all function cohesively together, the immaterial and the material, working as one comprehensive unit.

Conclusion:

We will never have a right understanding of who we are, as humans, apart from a right understanding of who God is and who Jesus Christ is. Jesus is the ultimate example of what it means to be truly human.