

Week 11: The Creation and Nature of Man

Grudem_{ST} 21-23; Grudem_{BD} 11-12; Ryrie 31-32

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:26–27, ESV)

“then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” (Genesis 2:7, ESV)

A. What is Man?

1. Hebrew word for “man” is אָדָם (*adam*), from the same root as אֲדָמָה (*adamah* – ground)
2. The Hebrew word ‘*bara*’ (create) in Gen. 1:26-27 indicates God created something brand new when He created man
3. Man was created in the image (Heb. *tselem*) and likeness (Heb. *demuth*) of God (Gen. 1:26-27)
 - a. These terms are basically synonymous and interchangeable
 - b. Image is not physical, but most likely a spiritual, intellectual & moral likeness (TWOT)
 - c. This means that “man is like God and represents God” (Grudem, 442)
 - d. Man’s offspring is made in *his* image and likeness (Gen. 5:3)
 - e. After the Fall, man is still in God’s image (Gen. 9:6; Jas. 3:9), though it is distorted
 - f. Through Christ, the full image of God is being renewed in us (2Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:10)
 - g. When He appears we shall be like Him (1John 3:2)
 - h. “When the Creator of the universe wanted to create something ‘in his image,’ something *more like himself* than all the rest of creation, he made us.” (Grudem, 449)
4. The nature of man
 - a. Monism – the body is the only element of the person (not popular)
 - b. Dichotomy – man is made up of two parts: material (body) and immaterial (spirit/soul)
 1. Scripture seems to use “soul” and “spirit” interchangeably
 2. Grudem and Ryrie argue for this position
 - c. Trichotomy – man consists of body, soul and spirit
 1. Key words: “soul” (Heb. *nephesh*, Gr. *psyche*); “spirit” (Heb. *ruach*, Gr. *pneuma*)
 2. Biblical support (1Thess. 5:23; Heb. 4:12)
 - d. The immaterial part can exist without the body (Luke 23:43; Acts 7:59; 2Cor. 5:8)
 - e. Other facets of immaterial man (Ryrie, 226-228)
 1. Heart – seat of intellectual, emotional, volitional & spiritual life
 2. Conscience – does not teach us right or wrong, but prods us to do what we have been taught to be right
 3. Mind – faculties of perceiving, understanding, feeling, judging & determining
 - a. Unbeliever’s mind is reprobate/debased/blinded (Rom. 1:28; 2Cor. 4:4)
 - b. Believer’s mind is the central place of spiritual development (Rom. 12:2)
 4. Will – one can will to do right or wrong (Rom. 7:15-25; 1Tim. 6:9; Jas. 4:4)
 - f. The origin of our souls
 1. *Pre-existentism* – souls existed in heaven before being joined to the body in the womb (Mormons)
 2. *Creationism* – God creates a new soul and sends it to the body in the womb (Grudem holds this view, so did Calvin – Ps. 139:13; Zech. 12:1)
 3. *Traducianism* – soul, as well as the body, is inherited from the mother and the father at conception (Ryrie holds this view, so did Luther – Gen. 5:3; Heb. 7:10)

B. Why was Man Created?

1. God’s *independence* means He does not need us for anything (Acts 17:24-25)
2. But, God created us for His glory (Is. 43:7; Eph. 1:11-12)
3. “This fact guarantees that our lives are significant” (Grudem, 441)

C. What is Our Purpose in Life?

1. With respect to God: to glorify Him
2. With respect to ourselves: to enjoy Him and delight in Him (Ps. 16:11; 84:1-2,10; Rom. 5:2-5)
3. “Man’s chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy Him forever.” (Westminster Larger Catechism, 1647)