

## **Biblical Theology**

### **U3L1: Creation of Man**

#### **Man Created In the Image of God**

- Definition: Mankind is unique from the rest of the created universe in that mankind was created in the image of God, is most like God, and represents God.
  
- 1. ***Mankind is unique from all of creation in that he was created in God's image.***
  - Genesis 1:26-27 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."
    - Hebrew words tselem (image) and demuth (likeness).
  
- 2. ***Mankind possesses unique dignity as bearers of God's image.***
  - Genesis 9:6 -, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.
    - No sin of shedding blood of animals.
    - God's agenda is focused on man.
    - Christ became man.
    - Christ died for man (not angels)
    - Christ redeemed mankind (not angels)
    - Church is the bride of Christ (unity unmatched).
  
- 3. ***Sin tarnishes God's image in mankind but Christ restores it.***
  - James 3:9 - with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.
  - 2 Corinthians 4:4 - the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
  - 1 Corinthians 15:49 - so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

#### **Specific Aspects of Our Likeness to God**

##### **1. Moral Aspect**

- We are creatures who are morally accountable to God for our actions.
- We have an inner sense of right and wrong.
- Righteous living is most like God, sinful living is unlike God.
- Mankind is at center of God's cosmic plan of redemption.

##### **2. Spiritual Aspect**

- We possess immaterial spirits / souls.
- We commune with God on a spiritual level.
- We will not cease to exist.

##### **3. Mental Aspect**

- We have ability to reason and think logically and learn. (Animals lack this capacity)
- We use complex, abstract language.
- We possess an awareness of distant future.
- We express ourselves creatively.
- We are emotional beings.

##### **4. Relational Aspect**

- Marriage and family relationships / unity unmatched in animal kingdom and angelic realm.
- We relate to creation as domineering species.

##### **5. Physical Aspect**

- Should not think of God in bodily or material sense (unless speaking of Jesus)
  - God is Spirit (John 4:24)
  - God is invisible (Colossians 1:15)
- Bodies created in a way to function as instruments to interact with creation like God does.
- Bodies created in a way to bear and raise children in our likeness (Gen 5:3)

## **Mankind's Created Purpose**

- **Mankind's created purpose is to glorify God.**
  - *Isaiah 43:6-7 - whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.*
  - *Ephesians 1:11-12 - so that we ... might be to the praise of his glory.*
  - *Psalm 73:25-26 - there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.*
  - *Psalm 84:1-2 - My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;*
  
  - Glorifying God means finding full delight in him as he finds delight in us.
  - "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him." John Piper
    - **Major practical implications for our lives.**

## **Discussion Questions**

1. According to Scripture, what is the primary created purpose of our lives? If you consider the major commitments or goals of your life at the present time, are you acting within your created purpose?
2. Do you think that God has made us so that we become more fulfilled or less fulfilled when we grown to become more like him? Why could answering this question be challenging?
3. Considering the fact that all people are created in the image of God, not just Christians, how might this affect the way you consider or interact with non-believers?
4. How does Christ's objective of restoring God's image in us help us understand more clearly who God is and how we should think of him?

## **Reading Assignment**

*Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem –Chapter 22: Male and Female Chapter 23: The Essential Nature of Man.*