

## **Biblical Theology**

### **U3L2: Nature of Man**

#### **Essential Nature of Man**

- Definition: Mankind is made up of tangible and spiritual parts whereas each part can exist without the other, but man is only complete when he exists as both.
- What is man made of?
  - Monism: Man is only one element, and his body is the person.
  - Dichotomy: Man is made up of two parts: body and soul/spirit.
  - Trichotomy: Man is made up of three parts: body, soul, and spirit.
- 1. ***The scriptures strongly indicate that man is dichotomous.***
  - Soul and spirit are used interchangeably. (Luke 1:46-47; John 12:27 & John 13:31)
  - Departure of one's spirit is singular (Genesis 35:18; Psalm 31:5; Acts 7:59)
- 2. ***Man is complete when he is made up of both body and spirit.***
  - *Genesis 2:7 - God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils*
  - *Matthew 5:29 - better that you lose one of your members than ... body thrown into hell.*
  - *1 Corinthians 15:52-53 - the dead will be raised imperishable*
  - *John 15:28-29 - resurrection of life... resurrection of judgment.*
- Read Chapter 23 in Introduction to Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem for further study.

#### **Man as Male and Female**

- Definition: Mankind created as male and female in God's image shows 1) harmonious interpersonal relationships, 2) equality in personhood and importance, and 3) difference in role and authority.
- 1. ***Male and female in God's image displays harmonious interpersonal relationships.***
  - *Genesis 2:18 - "It is not good that the man should be alone;*
  - *Genesis 2:23-24 - Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*
  - The fact that God created two distinct persons as male and female, rather than just one man, is part of our being in the image of God because it can be seen to reflect to some degree the plurality of persons within the Trinity. – (Grudem, 455)
- 2. ***Male and female in God's image displays equality in personhood and importance.***
  - *Genesis 1:26-27 - in the image of God he created him; male and female*
  - *Genesis 5:2 - Male and female he created them, ... named them Man*
  - *Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*
- 3. ***Male and female in God's image displays differences in role and authority.***
  - Must contextualize this statement in image of God, ie Trinity.
    - Creation: Genesis 1:1-2, John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:2
    - Salvation: John 3:16; Luke 22:42; Phil 2:6-8; John 16:7; Acts 1:8
  - Men hold vital dignified roles in marriage and ministry of leading nature.
    - Male possesses role of authority. (1 Corinthians 11:3)
    - Female created as helper for man (Genesis 2:18; 1 Corinthians 11:9)
    - Man is consistently called to provide and protect. (Genesis 2:23; 1 Peter 3:7)
    - Accountability falls to man. (Genesis 3:9; 1 Corinthians 15:22)

- Women hold vital dignified roles in marriage and ministry of supporting nature.
  - Women possess role of support. (Ephesians 5:22-24)
  - Old Testament dignifies role of women. (Sarah, Ruth, Esther, Deborah)
  - Jesus esteemed women in dignified ways that were counter-cultural (Woman at the well, Mary and Martha, teaching and healing of women, etc.)
  - Paul highly regarded many women as part of ministry (Pheobe, Priscilla, Euodia, Syntyche, Junia, Lois, Eunice)
  
- Reflecting created roles exemplifies Christ and glorifies Lord. (Ephesians 5:22-23)
  - Males that are selfish, harsh, domineering, abusive, cruel do not reflect God's image.
  - Females that are rebellious, resentful, resistant to leadership do not reflect God's image.
  - Males that are passive, disconnected, cold, and aloof do not reflect God's image.
  - Females that are passive, disconnected, cold, and aloof do not reflect God's image.
  
  - Males: Selfless, gentle, intentional leadership = Christ.
  - Females: Selfless, loving, intentional submission = Christ.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. In your own Christian experience, are you aware that you are more than just a physical body, that you have a nonphysical part? At what times do you especially become aware of the existence of your soul?
2. What do you struggle with most regarding the biblical teaching of manhood and womanhood?
3. How does a Trinitarian context affect your view of the roles possessed by men and women?
4. If you are a married man, how does knowing Christ help you love your wife the way God intends? If you are a married woman, how does know Christ help you love your husband the way God intends?

### **Reading Assignment**

*Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem –Chapter 24: Sin.*