

UNDERSTANDING WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE

Part 5: The Doctrine of Man (Anthropology)

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The term "anthropology" comes from two Greek words, namely, *Anthropos* meaning "man" and *logos* meaning "word, matter, or thing." The word "anthropology" refers to the study of man and *Biblical anthropology* is the study of man as understood primarily from Scripture. Therefore, it often involves discussion of the particular creation of man as he was made in the "image of God," the constitutional nature of man, and man after the fall.

A. WHY DID GOD CREATE MAN?

1. Man was created to fulfill _____ (Eph. 1:11).
2. Man was created to _____ (Gen, 1:27-28).
3. Man was created to bring God _____ (Eph. 1:12).
4. Man was created to bring _____ (1 Cor. 10:31).
5. As we glorify God and enjoy him, he _____ (Isa. 62:5).
6. God created man to experience a life of _____ (Psa. 16:11; John 10:10).

B. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE?

1. To be created in God's *image* (Heb. *salem*) means to have a _____ (Gen. 1:26a).
2. But the phrase "made in the image of God" refers not to the physical, but to the _____ (John 4:24; Exodus 20:4; Psa. 115:3-8; Rom. 1:23).

C. MAN IS LIKE GOD IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS

1. We are like God _____ (Gen. 2:17, 3:10; Psa. 119:127-128; Rom. 1:18-20; 13:3).
2. We are like God _____ (Gen. 3:8; 1 Cor. 6:7).
3. We are like God _____ (Mark 12:30).
4. We are like God _____ (1 Pet. 3:7; Col. 3:20; 1 John 1:7).
5. In this life we are imperfect, but God is _____ (1 Cor. 15:49; Rom. 8:28-29; 2 Cor. 3:18).
6. God's purpose in creating man in his image was completely realized in _____ (Col. 1:15; 2 Cor. 4:4).
7. Complete restoration happens _____ (1 John 3:2; Phil 3:20-21).

D. THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF HUMANS

1. God has given us a _____ (Gen. 2:7; Job 30:25; Psa. 43:5; 2 Kings 4:27; 2 Sam. 5:8; Song of Solomon 1:7; 3:1-4; Jer. 13:17).
2. God has given us a _____ (Deut. 34:9; Psa. 51:10; Rom. 1:9).
3. God has given us a _____ (1 Cor. 4:5).
4. God has given us a _____ (2 Cor. 1:12).
5. God has given us a _____ (Mark 12:30; Rom. 1:28; 2 Cor. 4:4).
6. God has given us _____ (Gen. 2:21; Rom. 7:5; 8:7-8).
7. God has given man a _____ (1 Pet. 5:2; Rom. 12:16).

E. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND FURTHER STUDY

1. How does knowing why God created you affect your outlook on life?
2. Explain why Christians can actually enjoy a life of fullness and joy even when life gets stressful.
3. In what ways can we use our minds as Christians?