



What is Man?
Psalm 8; Genesis 1:26-27
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I. Introduction

- A. How should we view humanity?
- B. The doctrine of man (theological anthropology) has implications for . . .
 1. The sanctity of human life debate (racism, abortion, euthanasia . . .)
 2. The evolution/creation debate
 3. The male/female sexuality debate
 4. The environmental stewardship debate

II. Proposition

- A. We were created to glorify God by being like Him in certain ways.

III. Exposition

- A. **We were created to glorify God (Isaiah 43:5-7; Psalm 8:1-2).**
 1. So, this is the chief end of man, our purpose – to glorify God! But how do we glorify God?
- B. **We were created as the crown of God's creation (Psalm 8:3-5).**
 1. We are NOT like the animals – we are unique (image bearers – Gen. 1:26-27).
- C. **We were created to glorify God by being like Him in certain ways (Psalm 8:6-8).**
 1. What does it mean to image God (Gen. 1:26-27)? To reflect His glory (as in a mirror).
 2. We are to image God in His communicable attributes: moral, mental, spiritual – imitate God!
 3. We are to image God in His relationality (Tri-unity) – God is social; we were not created to be alone (2:18).
 4. We are to image God in His vocation – dominion.
- D. **Sin has distorted God's image in us but not destroyed it.**
 1. Sin has affected every aspect of our being: total depravity/radical corruption (Rom. 5:12).
 2. Yet, the image of God in man was not completely destroyed (Gen. 5:1-3).
 3. Yet because of the effects of sin, no one seeks after God (Rom. 3:9-23).
 - a. So, we are dead in our trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1-3).

E. Through Christ, the perfect man, God is restoring His marred image in us.

1. Jesus is the true crown of God's glory, becoming fully human and perfectly imaging God (Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-9).
2. Christ became like us, had to, in order to rescue us from the effects of the fall (Hebrews 2:14-18).
3. Now, through Christ, God is progressively restoring the divine image in us (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29).
 - a. This is called progressive sanctification (see 2 Peter 1:3-4).
4. At the return of Christ, we shall fully bear the divine image (1 Cor. 15:49; 1 John 3:2).

IV. Implications: Let's look at four areas which are affected by our view of humanity (anthropology):

A. The sanctity of human life debate (Gen. 9:6; James 3:9) – we were created with human dignity and worth.

B. The evolution/creation debate – We were created for a future goal and hope.

C. Biblical manhood and womanhood – We were created to glorify God by fulfilling particular roles!

1. Definitions of masculinity, femininity – Piper, "Vision," 35-36.

AT THE HEART OF MATURE MASCULINITY IS A SENSE OF BENEVOLENT RESPONSIBILITY TO LEAD, PROVIDE FOR AND PROTECT WOMEN IN WAYS APPROPRIATE TO A MAN'S DIFFERING RELATIONSHIPS.

AT THE HEART OF MATURE FEMININITY IS A FREEING DISPOSITION TO AFFIRM, RECEIVE, AND NURTURE STRENGTH AND LEADERSHIP FROM WORTHY MEN IN WAYS APPROPRIATE TO A WOMAN'S DIFFERING RELATIONSHIPS.

D. Environmental stewardship – We were created to glorify God by caring for creation.

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