



REDEMPTION CITY CHURCH

God, the Gospel, and Culture

Why Theology Matters for Today's World

Anthropology

***Creatus* | Psychosomatic Constitution | *Imago Dei* | Knowledge |
Holiness | Righteousness | Dominion | Vicegerant | Artisan**

Kevin Amundson – April 3, 2022

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 1:26–28

**So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.**

Genesis 1:26–28

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 1:26–28

ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology

The Study of Man's Origin, Nature, and Destiny

- *Creatus*
- Psychosomatic Constitution of Man
 - Greek Dualism | Trichotomy | Holism | Duality in Unity
- *Imago Dei*
 - Knowledge
 - Holiness
 - Righteousness
- Dominion
- Diversity: Male + Female

Creatus

***Creatus* – Creature**

“God created man”

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

- Mankind is a creature of God.
- God's created mankind male and female.

Psychosomatic Constitution

Psychosomatic Constitution of Man

Man is comprised of both soul '*psycho*' and body '*soma*'

Four Major Positions on the Nature of Man

- Greek Dualism
- Trichotomy
- Holism
- Duality in Unity

Greek Dualism

Greek Dualism – Error #1

The Ancient Greek View

- Man consists of two parts;
 - A non-material part called *soul*
 - A material part called *body*
- These are incompatible or averse to each other.
- The body is inherently evil.
- The body is the source of human sin, while the soul remains pure.
- Errors Produced: Asceticism and Hedonism.

Trichotomy – Error #2

The Tri-Partite View

- Man is comprised of not two, but three parts;
 - A non-material **spirit** is man's higher part that communes with God.
 - A material **body** that is lesser than the spirit
 - A **soul** that consists of mental faculties that mediate conflict between the body and the spirit.
- Built off of Greek Dualism, it asserts a neutrality to man's spirit.
- Salvation is not regeneration of a depraved spirit, but a metaphysical awakening of a dormant spirit.

Holism – Error #3

A Modern Liberal View

- Man is a *monad*, a unity with no distinction of parts.
- Body and Soul are different words for the whole man.
- Practically, Holism rejects conscious life after death and it rejects bodily resurrection.

Duality in Unity

Duality in Unity

The Biblical View

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

- Man is made of both a **body** and a **soul**.
- Both body and soul were created good.
- The results of sin effect both the body and the soul.
- Death is the unnatural separation of the body and soul.

Duality in Unity

The Biblical View

“The other three views contain a mixture of truth and error. **Greek dualism** captures the truth that man’s constitution consists of two diverse elements, a material entity called body and non-material entity called soul or spirit. **Trichotomy** captures the truth that cohesive power unites these two elements. **Holism** captures the truth that man’s constitution is a unit, an organic whole. At creation God established an intricate bond that, in the absence of sin, would never have dissolved. Thus, if we reject any of these truths, or press one to an extreme at the expense of the others, we will fall from the razor’s edge of truth into error.”

Lectures in Systematic Theology: Doctrine of Man, Greg Nichols

IMAGO DEI

The Image of God

Imago Dei

The Image of God

Mankind is made in the likeness of God. He is intended to image God in the world. This Image of God in man is properly summarized under four headings:

- Knowledge
- Holiness
- Righteousness
- Dominion

Knowledge

Knowledge

“Knowledge after the image of the creator.”

and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Colossians 3:10

- Mankind is a rational creature.
- Mankind’s knowledge is revelationally dependent.
- Mankind operates with true knowledge when his thinking is reflective and founded upon God’s Word.
- We must know God in order to truly know ourselves.

Holiness

Holiness

“Likeness of God in true holiness”

and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:24

- Mankind is made to commune with God.
- Mankind images God in devoting himself to the praise of God’s glory.
- Mankind exemplifies holiness in ordering his life Godward.
- Mankind is to be distinct in his self-conscious obedience to God.

Righteousness

Righteousness

“Likeness of God in true righteousness”

and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:24

- Mankind is made to live in ethical conformity with God’s law.
- Mankind images God in loving his neighbor.
- Mankind exemplifies righteousness in treating his neighbor justly.
- Mankind cannot operate self determined judgement (Do not Judge).

Yet you have made him a little lower than
the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.
You have given him dominion over the
works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,

Psalm 8:5–6

Dominion

The Scope of Dominion

“Let them have dominion”

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 1:26

- Man is to exercise delegated juridical authority as God’s Vicegerant
- Mankind’s stewardship is to extend over all of creation.
- Mankind was made to exist on earth.

The Purpose of Dominion

“To cultivate it and keep it.”

Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

Genesis 2:15 (NASB)

- Mankind is tasked with two specific precepts; to cultivate and keep the Garden of the Lord.
- Cultivate is to disciple and direct the production of something.
- Keep is to guard or protect from harm or interference.

The Means of Dominion

“Whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.”

Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

Genesis 2:19

- Mankind must build out the disciplines necessary to his task.
- Mankind has been equipped with mental acumen.

Vicegerant

Vicegerant

“The head of every man is Christ”

But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.

1 Corinthians 11:3

- A vicegerent acts only within the bounds of authority specifically delegated to him.
- All of mankind's power and authority stems from God who oversees all the affairs of men as our ruler and head.

Diversity

Diversity

“Male and female he created them”

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

- Mankind consists of two sexes; male and female.
- This diversity is an expression of the diversity in the Triune Godhead.

APPLICATION

“Culture is Religion Externalized”

Henry Van Til

Application

Take Every Thought Captive to Obey Christ

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, [6] being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

2 Corinthians 10:5-6

- Fallen man will produce fallen culture.
- Redeemed man will produce redeeming culture.
- God has entrusted us to the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18)

Artisan

A worker skilled in a craft or trade

Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron.

Genesis 4:20-22

- An Artisan dedicates himself to a craft or trade in pursuit of excellency.
- Dominion is inescapable. It is either Godward or manward. It is not neutral.
- Artisanry is always imitative, after God. Man is to be analogically recreative.

Potentiality

“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth”

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 1:28

- God has built potentiality into his creation.
- Mankind is to expand the image of God across the scope of creation.

Disciplines

“Then the man said”

Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.” (ESV)

Genesis 2:23

- Man’s response to God’s good gift was a soliloquy of exuberant poetry.
- Mankind roots his framework of culture on the goodness and gospel of God.

Questions?