

# Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

# Anthropology Part 1

A Study of Mankind from a Biblical  
Perspective

# Reasons to Think about Anthropology

- Mankind is the pinnacle of creation
- Helps us understand how we relate to our Creator
- Be able to refute false views of mankind
- Apply biblical truth to modern issues: abortion, euthanasia, feminism, etc.

# Why This Matters: Christian Worldview

Creation   Fall   Salvation (Christ)   Restoration



# Origin of Man

- Creation Account #1—Gen 1:26-31
  - Creation of universe and mankind
  - Introduces mankind as the pinnacle of creation
  - Purpose: Be fruitful and multiply; have dominion over the earth
  - “Then God said” of Gen 1:26 = something distinct and unique
  - Two genders—Gen 1:27
  - Gen 1:31—creation (including mankind) “very good”

# Origin of Man

- Creation Account #2—Gen 2:7-25
  - Emphasizes the way God created humanity
  - Gen 2:7—divine in-breathing of life
  - Gen 2:18—only aspect of original creation that is “not good” = solitariness
  - Gen 2:21-24—distinctiveness of male and female

OTHER Creation Passages: Gen 3:20; Gen 5:1-2; Job 33:6; Ps 8:4-9; Matt 19:4; Acts 17:25-26; Col 1:16

# Purpose of Creation of Mankind: God's Glory

- Isaiah 43:7
- Importance of male/female distinction to God's glory
- Creation of mankind preceded by divine counsel with the Trinity—Gen 1:26

# Views of the Origin of Mankind

- Atheistic evolution—no supernatural means
- Theistic evolution—God's supervision
- Progressive Creationism (Day-age theory)—days of creation = ages
- Gap Theory—millions of years between Gen 1:1 and 1:2



# Views of the Origin of Mankind

- Literal 24-Hour Days of Creation
  - Hebrew for “day” with a numeral always = 24 hours
  - “evening and morning”
  - Sabbath day in Exodus 20 based on 24 hour day assumption
  - If mankind evolved, he is only a higher animal

# Image of God: Implications

- Implications for behavior and view of others (James 3:8-9)
- Implications for justice (Gen 9:6)
- Image of God affirmed for all persons
- Basis for human dignity
- Image of God impaired but not destroyed by sin

# Image of God: Implications

- Implies ownership by God and accountability to God
- Jesus Christ the perfect revelation of the image of God
- Image of God is our common ground and starting point with unbelievers—all humans inherently know they are accountable to God (Rom 1:18ff)

# The Nature of Image of God

- View 1: Substantive view—same (physical), psychological, spiritual qualities
- View 2: Relational view—capacity to experience relationships
- View 3: Functional view—linked to our task: to rule as God rules

# Implications for Current Issues

- Evolution
- Animal Rights Movements
- Environmental Movements
- Capital Punishment
- Abortion
- Racism
- Feminism

# Male and Female

- Differences:
  - Physical
  - Differing roles—equal in essence; different in function
    - Adam created first—1 Tim 2:13-14
    - Eve a “helper fit for him” -Gen 2:18
    - Adam named Eve (Gen 2:23)
    - Adam represents human race (1 Cor 15:22)
  - Aggressive vs. Nurturing
  - Goal-Oriented vs. Person-Oriented

# Male and Female

- Why Male and Female?
  - Propagation of human race—Gen 1:27-28
  - Push toward relationships
    - Cure for loneliness (Gen 2:18)
    - Mutual dependence (1 Cor 11:11)
  - Reflective of the nature of the Trinity

# Marital Physical Relationship

- Physical illustration and manifestation of the level of oneness and unity of the Trinity and of God and His people.
- Symbolize and strengthen marital union (Gen 2:24)
- Intended only for marriage relationship
- Deepens commitment of marriage
- Context of marriage = where children raised
- Important enough that God commanded this part of marriage (1 Cor 7:3-5)