

Anthropology – Discovering Doctrine

- In this session, we want to discuss these statements from our foundations booklet
 - The study of humanity, anthropology, is our doctrine of the evening
 - We'll examine a lot of scripture on the topic
 - But I will also quote some commentators, as I found so much good material to help us on these four...
1. We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker.
 2. We believe that man voluntarily transgressed and fell from his sinless and happy state.
 3. We believe that the consequence of this fall is that all mankind are now sinners by choice.
 4. We believe that all mankind therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse.
- As we consider this first "we believe" statement, we should remember
 - Everything God made from the beginning was very good
 - Man, who was created in God's image, was also very good
 - He was meant to have dominion
 - We find each of these ideas expressed in Genesis 1...

Genesis 1:26-31

26 And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

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

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

- I read a lot about man being created in God's image and after His likeness
- One commentary had a good summary of their general meaning...

"The human body is after God's image only as being the means whereby man attains to dominion: for dominion is God's attribute, inasmuch as He is sole Lord. Man's body, therefore, as that of one who rules, is erect, and endowed with speech, that he may give the word of command. The soul is first, in God's image. This, as suggesting an external likeness, may refer to man's reason, free-will, self-

consciousness, and so on. But it is, secondly, in God's likeness, which implies something closer and more inward. It refers to man's moral powers, and especially to his capacity of attaining unto holiness."

- Man is unique in creation
- We are rational
- We have agency
- We can reason and choose
- We reflect God's intellect and freedom
- Someone said this about man...

"Anytime someone invents a machine, writes a book, paints a landscape, enjoys a symphony, calculates a sum, or names a pet, he or she is proclaiming the fact that we are made in God's image."

- We learn something about the innocence of man later in Genesis 1
- When we come to the phrase "very good" we find some further input from another commentary...

"The Divine approval of the material universe constitutes one of the most instructive traits of the Hebrew cosmogony [model concerning the origin of the universe]. According to it, matter is not something hostile to God, independent of Him, or inherently evil, but made by Him, ordered by Him, good in itself, and good in its relation to the purpose and plan of the Creator. The adjective 'good' should not therefore be limited in meaning to the sense of 'suitable,' or 'fitting.' There is nothing 'evil' in the Divinely-created universe: it is 'very good.'"

- Man is not polluted in this reading
- Man is not burdened by sinful thoughts or actions
- Man is free, but man has not used his freedom for that which is against God's purpose and order
- Nothing contrary to His character or His law has yet been done
- When woman is created in Genesis 2, another important phrase appears
- We find it in the last verse...

Genesis 2:29

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

- I like what Barnes has to say about this...

"Of nakedness in our sense of the term they had as yet no conception. On the contrary, they were conscious of being sufficiently clothed in a physical sense by nature's covering, the skin - and, in a spiritual point of view, they were clad as in a panoply of steel with the consciousness of innocence, or, indeed, the unconsciousness of evil existing anywhere, and the simple ignorance of its nature, except so far as the command of God had awakened in them some speculative conception of it. Hence, they were

not ashamed. For shame implies a sense of guilt, which they did not have, and an exposedness to the searching eye of a condemning judge, from which they were equally free."

- Adam and Eve knew not what shame was
- Because they were created in innocence

- But soon, man " voluntarily transgressed"
- Which we find in Genesis 3...

Genesis 3:1-13

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

- God reveals His law - His command - in this passage
- And He asks if they have broken His law
- By eating of the tree God commanded them not to eat, they have sinned
- They have voluntarily disobeyed their Maker

- Immediately, they are fearful
- Aware of their nakedness
- And hiding
- All evidences of a loss of innocence

- The passing from life unto death
- The process of death commenced from this moment
- As God said in Genesis 2:17 it would
- Not just physical death, but (perhaps more importantly) spiritual death
- Adam and all men after Adam are dead in trespasses and sins
- The New Testament puts it plainly...

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

- The good and bad news of man's condition is revealed here
- Sin is passed down from Adam
- But Christ provides a way for all men to be made alive again
- Another passage provides even more detail...

Romans 5:12-19

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

- Not only have we substantiated our second "we believe" statement here
- We have begun to do the same for our third
- Which is "the consequence of this fall is that all mankind are now sinners by choice"
- This concept in its entirety is summed up in the first verse
- Which can be rephrased this way...

"Sin came into the world because of what one man did. And with sin came death. So this is why all people must die—because all people have sinned."

- But the good news is summed up in verses 18 and 19
- Which can be translated this way...

"Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous."

- That one act of righteousness
- That one man's obedience
- Was Christ's
- The previous verse (verse 17) names Him...

"For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ."

- Condemnation reigns in the world because of imputed sin
- That sin which is passed down from Adam
- And because we are sinners by choice
- Much more, in our sins, we reject the Savior, God's son
- A quick stop in John 3:18 on the way to discussing our fourth statement
- Which is "all mankind therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse"
- Let's read it...

John 3:18

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- We stand condemned already
- Rejectors of Christ
- Where is the condemnation?
- The next verse in this context answers...

John 3:19-21

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

- We are sinners by birth whose deeds are evil
- We love darkness rather than light
- And salvation comes only through God
- Through the Savior He sent

- This Savior was made flesh and dwelt among us
- One of us, but not like us...

Hebrews 4:15

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

- Neither a sinner by birth
- Not a son of Adam
- Born of a virgin who was found with child of the Holy Ghost
- Nor was He a sinner by choice...

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

- The study of man is the study of fall, certainly
- But it is the study of restoration too
- Restoration that is complete...

Ephesians 2:1-7

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

- Eternal life with Christ awaits those who have faith in Him
- There will be no sin in heaven
- No separation from our Creator
- No condemnation forever
- The memory of the fall will be distant, but still close enough to cause rejoicing

- These statements of belief from the church say nothing of
 - The makeup of man
 - The purpose of man
 - Or the complexity of man
 - Which are worth a little discussion too

- The Bible describes three parts of a man
 - As seen here...

1 Thessalonians 5:23

23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- We see these three parts - body, soul, and spirit - again in Hebrews...

Hebrews 4:12

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- The spirit is the pneuma or the breath of man
- The soul is the psychē or the vital force of a man
- The body is the sōma or the physical body of a man

- It could just as easily be argued, since both soul spirit mean "breath" in some way
 - That they make up the immaterial part of man
 - While the body is the material part of man
 - Two parts instead of three

- You may have heard these differing views described as trichotomy and dichotomy
 - I find both of the views somewhat compelling
 - But fall more into the trichotomist view, just because all three are used within the same context
 - This is not something very many find worthy of division

- There is merit in either position
- It is asserted with very few contradictions that man's purpose is to glorify God
- To glorify Him could be described as reflecting His communicable attributes in the world
- This is the key word or key idea in many Old and New Testament passages

Psalm 29:2

2 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

- Or...

Psalm 96:3

3 Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.

- Or perhaps...

Psalm 115: 1

1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

- In the New Testament...

1 Peter 4:11

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

- Maybe the most obvious...

Revelation 4:11

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

- The direct instruction to glorify Him is obvious
- But we also have the duty and privilege to practice many things consistent with the definition of glorifying Him
- Like worshipping, obeying, proclaiming, honoring, and serving Him
- Among others...

1 Corinthians 10:31

31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

- Man's complexity is found in many references too
- Consider what makes up a man according to the first and great commandment...

Matthew 22:37-40

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

- Three more words describe a love for God that consumes a man's entire being
- Our mind, our will, and our emotions are to love Him
- The immaterial part of us, that makes up who we really are, is to love Him
- And all the faculties of our minds and understandings are to love Him too

- We are people of free will
- Who choose to love and serve God or not to love and serve God
- We make choices
- We have complex motivations
- Some are good
- Some are evil
- We have thoughts
- We have an individual conscience
- We strive
- We sacrifice
- We are creative
- We have passions
- We can find ourselves in despair
- Or find ourselves filled with deep joy

- Whatever the complexities of who we are
- God urges us to give everything we are to Him and to His service