

What is man that You are mindful of him?

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:4-17

I. Introduction

- A. As we study Genesis 1-11, we are seeking to establish a Christian worldview.
 - 1. What is a worldview and what makes one up?
 - a. Ronald Nash, *Life's Ultimate Questions*, 13: "A worldview contains a person's answers to the major questions of life, almost all of which contain significant philosophical content. It is a conceptual framework, pattern, or arrangement of a person's beliefs."
 - 2. Why is one's worldview important?
 - a. . . . because we interpret reality based up what we believe about that reality.
- B. What makes up a worldview?
 - 1. Worldviews are composed of at least five areas of beliefs (Nash, 14-16).
 - a. What one believes about God (theology)
 - b. What one believes about reality (metaphysics)
 - c. What one believes about truth and how we know truth (epistemology)
 - d. What one believes about right and wrong (ethics)
 - e. What one believes about human beings (anthropology)
- C. How does one's view of human beings affect one's life?
 - 1. Question: What is man?
 - a. Body and spirit, body, spirit, soul?
 - 2. Biomedical Ethics:
 - a. Sanctity of Human Life: Beginning of life issues, end of life issues
 - b. Infertility Issues
 - c. Human Cloning
 - 3. Human Dignity – Value
 - a. Discrimination: Social, racial
 - b. Self-worth
 - 1). Beauty industry: Make up, cosmetic surgeries, fashion
 - 2). Exercise & diet
 - 4. Human Nature: Are humans basically good or evil by nature?
 - 5. Male-Female Relationality and Sexuality:
 - a. Male/Female roles – at home, society, church
 - b. Male/Female sexuality
 - 6. Eschatology
 - a. What happens to me after I die?
- D. Non-Christian worldviews are dehumanizing.
 - 1. In our culture today:
 - a. Children (middle school mentality) - Language used of one another
 - b. Machismo/feminism - Confusion of gender roles
 - c. Ku Klux Klan/Immigration debate - Racism
 - d. Abortion debate
 - e. Euthanasia

2. What should we as Christians think about such issues? How should we respond to such issues?
 - a. The Word of God – Read Genesis 1:26-31.

II. Proposition

- A. The account of the origin of humankind in Genesis restores humanity to a place of dignity and honor by declaring that all people are created in the image and likeness of God to reflect His glory.
 1. ILLUS: Dehumanization in ANE creation myths
 2. Let's look at what the Bible teaches about humanity.

III. Exposition

- A. **The Lord our God created humanity in His image to reflect His glory (Genesis 1:26-31; 2:3-17).**
 1. The image of God – *tselem* & *Demuth* are essentially interchangeable.
 - a. Image (*tselem*) – from a root that means to carve or cut: signifies that man represents God.
 - b. Likeness (*Demuth*) – means “to be like”
 - 1). A. Hoekema: “The two words together tell us that man is a representation of God who is like God in certain respects” (*Created in God's Image*, 13).
 - a). ILLUS: Mirror
 2. How do we image God?
 - a. In who we are: Substantive/structural – communicable attributes of God (Gen. 1:26-27)
 - 1). We were created to worship – relate to God
 - b. In how we relate to one another: Relational – the Trinity (Gen. 1:26)
 - 1). We were not created to be alone/in isolation (Gen. 2:18)
 - c. In what we do: Functional – dominion (Gen. 1:28-32; 2:4-17)
 - 1). We were created to rule over creation.
 3. Implications:
 - a. Self-image (Psalm 8)
 - b. Dignity of all persons (James 3:9)
 - c. Sanctity of all human life (Genesis 9:6)– against abortion, euthanasia
- B. **Adam's sin distorted the image of God in all humanity (Genesis 3; 5:1-3).**
 1. The image of God was not lost, just distorted (Genesis 5:1-3).
 - a. ILLUS: Broken mirror
 2. Because Adam was our representative, his sin distorted God's image in us, so that we no longer truly reflect God and His glory (Romans 5:12).
 - a. Every aspect of our being is affected by Adam's sin.
 - 1). How we relate to God, one another, the creation.
 - 2). ILLUS: perversion of
 - a). Worship, arts, literature, movies, sexuality, creation
- C. **Jesus Christ is the true image of God and makes possible the renewal of the distorted image of God in humanity (Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3; 2:1-18).**
 1. Jesus Christ is the last Adam, and the true image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3).
 - a. ILLUS: Notice how Christ related to the Father, others, creation.
 2. As our representative head, Jesus accomplished for us what the first Adam could not (Heb. 2:1-18).
- D. **By God's grace through faith in Christ, God's Holy Spirit is renewing the image of God in us (2 Cor. 3:16-4:6).**
 1. God's work – 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

2. Our response: We must repent and believe! – 2 Corinthians 3:16
3. God's goal – 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29-30

IV. Conclusion

- A. How does God restore the distorted image in us?
 1. Romans 12:1-2 – renewing of the mind
 - a. In other words, we have to allow God's Word by the power of the Holy Spirit to change, transform our old, corrupt thinking and replace it with the truth of God's Word.
 2. The church – Ephesians 4 (we were not created/saved to be alone – alone is NOT good)
- B. As Christians who are being conformed to the image of Christ, how are we to relate?
 1. To God?
 - a. Worship
 - b. Self-image
 2. To one another?
 - a. Treat all people with dignity & respect regardless of race, color, ethnicity, or gender.
 - 1). Contra racism, discrimination, etc. – Christ has shattered such distinctions.
 - b. Treat all human life as sacred regardless of age or health.
 - 1). Contra abortion, euthanasia
 3. To creation?
 - a. Stewards
 - 1). ILLUS: Drilling for oil responsibly, not worshipping nature
- C. All of life is worship – Romans 12:1

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