

THEOLOGY I: Humanity (part 1)

Session 5 - Dr. Jeremy Kimble

KEY QUESTIONS

- Why did God create us?
- Why did God create us as male and female?
- What is the essence of biblical manhood and womanhood?

CREATOR/CREATURE DISTINCTION

- God did not **need to** create man, yet he created us for His own **glory**. (1 Cor 10:31, Eph 1:11-12)

everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” Isa 43:7

- What Is Our Purpose in Life?
 - To glorify God through **delight** in him and **obedience** to His ways. (Ps 84:1-2, 10; Rom 5:2-3; 11:36 Phil 4:4; Rev 4:11)

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Ps 73:25-26

- As we have studied we see that the triune God is the Creator of all things. As such, His creation will be **substantially different** in kind, as they are **dependent** on and **derived** from the Creator. He is distinct.
- Man, though the **pinnacle** of God’s creative work, is not different from the rest of creation in this sense (Gen. 1).
- We cannot know **ourselves** apart from our relationship with our **Creator**.

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”. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 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.” Gen 1:26-28

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

- We are created **beings**. (Gen 1:26-27; cf. 1 Cor 4:7)

- First, it **excludes pride and vanity**. There are no self-made men or women. We owe our existence to God.

Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Ps 100:3

- Second, it **gives us dignity**. We are not a cosmic accident, or the chance product of evolution, or simply an animal that somehow gained rational powers. God deliberately chose to create us. Every other view of humanity lacks any transcendent basis for human dignity.

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Ps 139:13

- Third, it **provides comfort and responsibility**. On the one hand, we are not thrown into existence and told to create our own essence. We are created for a purpose. But on the other hand, we are created with the freedom and accompanying responsibility to choose to accept who we are and what we are created for.

- We are created **male** and **female**. (Gen 1:27; 2:18-25)

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him. 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. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found helper fit for him. Gen 2:18-25

- **Equality**

- Genesis 1:26-28. Clearly Genesis 1 teaches us that both male and female are in the **image** of God. As we have seen, 'man' here is a collective noun (*adam*) and the text is deliberate in stressing that 'man' consists of '**male** and **female**.'

- Furthermore, in v 28, not only does God 'bless' both of them, but also the divine intention for man to have '**dominion**' from v. 26 is reaffirmed for both of 'them' – 'male and female.' No doubt men and women are more than sexual beings, but they are sexual nonetheless. And it is in their identity as 'male and female,' together comprising 'man' in the image of God, that man and woman first appear in the biblical narrative. And God endorses their identity as '**very good**' (v.31).
 - Our textual data. Nowhere in Scripture is the equality between men and women questioned, or are women made inferior to men. See Genesis 9:6 and James 3:9; cf. 1 Co 11:7.
- We are created **male** and **female** (Gen 1:27; 2:18-25)
 - **Persons-in-Relation**
 - Note the similarity and equality of the man and the woman (2:23-24). The text focuses on the qualitative **difference** between the man and the woman and all other living creatures. 'Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh' affirms the family tie and common nature. Even the removal of the rib underscores this basic fact as well for it comes from man, thus woman shares his nature. But mark it well, the creation of 'woman' is not merely an add-on of a few feminine attributes to a 'neutral' humanity. What she is, is qualitatively the same as the man (human), but different right to her core and vice versa. Scripture does not **relativize** sexual differentiation to a few bodily characteristics. We are not genderless, but man and woman.
 - The text focuses on the **complementary** nature of the sexes. The man and the woman are made for each other, and the man must accept this 'otherness' in order for the emptiness of his solitude to be filled. God defines the newly created woman as 'a helper fit for him.' This speaks of both the 'headship' of Adam and the complementary nature of the sexes.
 - In marrying, a man is to 'leave' his father/mother and become 'one flesh.' This calls the man and woman into a fully **shared** life. It includes much more than sex, but that is certainly part of it. An accompanying command is to be fruitful and multiply (Gen 1:27-28), a key component of marriage.
 - See Eph 5:22-23. The relationship of God to his people is the **archetype** of the marriage relationship. It is ultimately patterned after the relations within the Godhead. Human marriage is the earthly **type**, pointing towards the spiritual **reality** of God and His people, Christ and the church. Therefore, in the new heavens/earth there will be no human marriages in the consummated state, only the marriage – that to which human marriages now point.

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Eph 5:22-23

- We were created to **work**. (Gen 1:28; 2:15)
 - Some theologians refer to these verses, especially, Gen 1:28, as the **cultural imperative**. The evangelistic imperative (make disciples) stems from the fall and the resulting need to share the message of salvation, but the cultural imperative dates from **creation**.
 - How will you do your vocation in a distinctly Christian manner (unto the Lord)?
 - Temptations associated with work:

- **Idolatry**

- **Laziness**

Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

Prov 6:6-11

A sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not even bring it back to his mouth!

Prov 19:24

- **Injustice and oppression** (James 5:4)

- Positive purposes of work:

- Means of serving and **honoring** Christ (Col 3:24, Eph 6:6-7).

- We work as a **testimony**, showing the effect of Christ in our lives. (Titus 2:3-5, 6, 9-10, 1 Tim 5:13-16).

- To **provide** for our own needs, and to have something to **share** with others (Titus 3:14, 1 Tim 5:8, Eph 4:28)

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Eph 4:28

- Three levels as it relates to income:
 1. A thief to get, steal stuff to get
 2. Work to get (most Christians live on level 2)
 3. Work to get, in order to generously give
- We are created for **community** (Gen 2:18)
 - The biblical vision is that humans are created to live in community. It is still not good for anyone, man or woman, to live **alone**. (marriage)
 - One of the first effects of the fall was to break communion, not only between humans and God, but among **humans** (Gen 3:7,12). Throughout the OT God's constant emphasis was not just or even primarily the salvation of individuals, but the creation of a **people** (see Gen 17:7-8; trace the development of the phrase "I will be your God and you shall be my people" through the OT and into the NT (Jer. 31:33)).

Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."
 (relational tension) Gen 3:16

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
 Heb 3:12-13