

THEOLOGY I: Humanity (part 2)

Session 6 - Dr. Jeremy Kimble

REVIEW

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

- We are created **beings** (Gen 1:26-27; cf. 1 Cor 4:7)
- We are created **male** and **female**. (Gen 1:27; 2:18-25) Biology and disposition.
- We were created to **work**. (Gen 1:28; 2:15) It wasn't intended to be cursed by sin.
- We are created for **community** (Gen 2:18) Most NT letters are written to churches.

THEOLOGICAL FORMATION

Adam - deputized by God as priestly king (Gen 1:28; 2:15; 5:1-2; Ps 8)

Noah - same commission as Adam (Gen 8:20-9:7)

Abraham, Israel, David (Gen 12:1-3; 17:16; 18:18-19 Ex 19:5-6, Num 3:7-8; 8:26; 18:5-6; 2 Sam 7:4-16)

Jesus - perfect priest and king, restores Adam's office
Read Hebrews

Church - work for and keep the people of God (Ezek 36:10-37; 1 Pet 2:9-10)

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 1:28

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. Gen 2:15 (Temple - God resides with Him people to be worshiped)

*And God blessed **Noah** and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. Gen 9:1-2*

*Now the Lord said to **Abram**, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Gen 12:1-3*

*The Lord said, "Shall I hide from **Abraham** what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him." Gen 18:17-19*

*But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant **David**, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' Now therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.*

2 Sam 7:4-10

When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your father, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'" 2 Sam 7:12-16

- **Point:** In Adam's day, he was called to work and keep the garden, a priestly function, a kingly function of dominion over the earth, to steward what God had given to him. Israel is re-commissioned with that calling... they fail. Jesus fulfills that calling perfectly - the perfect priest - the perfect king - the perfect prophet. Now as God's people we're called to steward, have dominion and to keep and work the temple where God has put us. **We are the temple of the living God.** (1 Cor 3, 1 Cor 6, 2 Cor 6) As humanity, we should dwell, work, inhabit local churches in membership and oversee and be overseen in our discipleship and walk in ways that please Him because we work and keep and steward this place where God dwells. We're called to holiness because God is holy.

THEOLOGICAL FORMULATION

- We must make clear the alternatives: **creation** or **cosmic accident**.
 - If humanity is not created by God and endowed with **dignity** and **meaning**, the alternative is that we are simply a cosmic accident, a chance production of the universe, devoid of meaning, lacking a basis for claiming dignity and **purpose**. All our longings for beauty and significance are simply illusions, sophisticated chemical reactions in our brains. Evolution has no friendly orientation toward us. It reduces us to cosmic trash. A key theological task in the present climate is to **clarify** the alternatives. Subjective. Who's right? Who knows.
 - We must emphasize the "**givenness**" of creation, against the yearning for absolute **autonomy** in our culture today. Don't rebel against his created order. One means to life - Jesus Christ.
 - We simply must accept that as created beings we are structured in certain ways that we cannot change. We may strive against them, but it will be in vain. We are **finite**, **mortal**, beings, and we will die, however much medical science may improve. We are **moral** beings, and we extinguish that spark of conscience only with great peril and at the risk of becoming virtually non-human. We are **sexual** beings, with differences so deep and profound on **every level** of our being that no sex-change operation can alter them.
- There must be a proper **affirmation** of a historical **Adam**.
 - This is supported by Scriptural references to Adam that strongly affirm his **historical** existence (1 Chron 1:1, Lk 3:38, and especially Rom 5:12-21 and 1 Cor 15:21-22, 44), by the historical understanding of the church, and by **reason** (humanity had to start somewhere. You can't have a 2nd Adam without a 1st one).
- Regarding marriage:
 - God's creation of 'male and female' not only demonstrates that he created 'male and female' equal, but also for **relationship**.
 - The creation of 'male and female' shows the perversity of other sexual **deviations**.

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Gen 2:25

- Marriage is not a product of social **evolution**; rather it is part of God's **original**, pre-fall creation (design). Marriage is not a human custom; it is a divinely created **institution**, defined for all ages and all cultures.
- Community, (i.e. 'persons-in-relation,') does not abolish personal **individuality**, even in the marriage relationship. The 'one/many' are both preserved in Christian thought – which is reflective of the nature of God as Triune.

If same sex relationship are so wrong? Why didn't Jesus talk about it and condemn it? God ordained it to be one man and one woman, he doesn't have to. That lifestyle is sinful in Rom 1, 1 Cor 6, 1 Timothy 1.

And said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." Matt 19:5-6

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- One of the timeliest applications is the strong way in which the doctrine of our common creation undermines **racism, ethnocentrism, and prejudice**. In this country and around the world, racial and ethnic conflicts are increasing. In such a context, our common source in God and **common ancestry** in Adam needs to be proclaimed.
- Since God created us for community, let us be a people who put a high value on **marriage, family, and the church**. If Scripture says we are created for community, what are we doing to develop that in our churches and families? If it is a real need, and folks don't find it at church, they will go elsewhere (a club, a group, a team, a bar).
- This also informs how we approach the issue of **sexuality**, and all distortions we see of this in culture. God has ordained that marriage be **pure, monogamous**, and between a male and female, and so we must come under His authority in these matters and know these are commands for our good.
- Also, there should be a proper balance of **work** and **rest**.