

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Creation:

The Heights Church June 5, 2016

Creation: Christian vs Secular World Views

Origin of:	Christian View	Secular View
Inanimate Universe	Created by God out of nothing (<i>ex nihilo</i>)	Big Bang
Flora and Fauna	Created by God	Evolution
Spiritual Beings (Angels, Cherubim, Seraphim, and “the four Living Creatures”)	Spiritual beings created by God.	Do not exist
Humans	Physical beings created by God in God’s image and for His glory	Evolved from apes

Creation of Humans

...When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. (Genesis 5:1-2)

Though we have similarities to other mammals, we are very different because we were created in the image of God.

We will seek to answer three questions:

- 1. What does it mean to be created in the image of God?**
- 2. Why does the Bible add “male and female he created them?”**
- 3. What is the essential nature of humans? Are we body, mind, soul and spirit or some combination of these?**

Creation of Humans

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The Hebrew word translated as Man is the same word translated as Adam *ādām*

- **God did not need to create man.**

And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. (John 17:5)

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:24)

Creation of Humans

- **We were created for God's glory.**

"... bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." (Isaiah 43:6-7)

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:11-12)

- **Therefore, our lives are significant and important to God and we are to glorify Him.**

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Creation of Humans

Our purpose is to glorify God.

- **We are to enjoy God and delight in him.**

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11)

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. (Psalm 27:4)

The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Westminster shorter catechism Q&A 1

Creation of Humans

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.” (Genesis 1:26)

- The Hebrew word for image (*tselem*) and the Hebrew word for likeness (*demût*) both refer to something that is similar but not identical
- The Hebrew word for image can also be used for something that represents something else.
- Therefore, we are like God but not identical to God and are in some sense are his representative.
- When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own **likeness (*demût*)** , after his **image (*tselem*)** , and named him Seth. (Genesis 5:3)

Creation of Humans

- The true nature of man in the image of God was seen only in Adam and Eve prior to the Fall and in the earthly life of Jesus.
- In the Fall the image of God was distorted in humans but not lost.

“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. (Genesis 9:6)

With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. (James 3:9)

- **Nevertheless, as the result of the Fall:**
 - Our moral purity has been lost.
 - Our sinful character does not reflect God’s holiness.
 - Our intellect is corrupted by falsehood and misunderstanding.
 - Our speech does not continually glorify God.
 - Our relationships are often governed by selfishness not love and so forth.

Creation of Humans

- Redeemed people progressively are partially restored to the image/likeness of God.

and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (Colossians 3:10)

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (Romans 8:29)

Creation of Humans

- **Following our resurrection we will be completely restored to the image of God.**

Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:49)

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2)

Creation of Humans

It is difficult to define all the ways in which we are like God but there are several ways in which we are more like God than all the rest of creation.

Morality:

- 1. We are morally accountable to God for our actions.**
- 2. We have an inner sense of right and wrong.**
- 3. When we act according to God's moral standards our behavior is seen by God as holy and righteous.**

Creation of Humans

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Spiritual:

- 1. Our immaterial spirit enables us to relate to God; to pray to him and praise him and to “hear” him speak to us.**
- 2. We are immortal and never cease to exist.**

Creation of Humans

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Mental:

1. Our ability to think logically and abstractly as well as to learn and enhance our skills sets us apart from the animals.
2. We use complex abstract language both spoken and written.
3. We sense that we will live beyond death. he has put eternity into man's heart (Ecclesiastes 3:11)
4. We are creative (art, music, literature, technology etc.)
5. We can simultaneously experience a wide range of emotions.

Creation of Humans

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Relations:

- 1. Interpersonal harmony between people in marriage, a family, or in a local church far exceeds any sense of community or relationship between animals or an animal and a person.**
- 2. Our interpersonal relationships are superior to angels who do not marry, have children or live with redeemed humans.**
- 3. We are like God in our relationship to the rest of creation in that we rule over creation now (Genesis 1:26, 28) and will judge angels when Christ returns (1 Corinthians 6:3)**

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Physical abilities:

We can translate our creative thoughts and feelings into physical realities of art, architecture, even reshaping the earth to small degrees in our construction projects. In this our hands and voice are far more able to make things than any animal. Moreover even when the loss of use of hands, voice, hearing or sight occur we are far more adaptable to find other ways to accomplish these God like attributes physically than the animals and to improve and increase our skill.

Creation of Humans

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Our dignity as God's image bearers:

- 1. Though fallen and marred by sin every human has the status of being made in the image of God and therefore must be treated with dignity and respect.**
- 2. If we see ourselves as just a higher form of animal, we will lose much of our sense of the meaning of life, and depreciate the value of human life.**