

## Lesson Three – “Anthropology: Who Is Man?”

### Introduction

Who is man and where did he come from? Is there a meaning or purpose for his existence? Here again we discover a stark contrast between Christianity and our contemporary culture. These two viewpoints also offer very different explanations for the evil we find in ourselves and in the world.

Aside from understanding who God is, nothing could be more important than grasping the truth about human nature. Only by a clear map or picture of what we're made of can we expect to navigate daily life without becoming lost.

### Quote Unquote

*What did they say? Fill in the blanks as you watch this presentation.*

1. Of all kinds of knowledge that we can ever obtain, the knowledge of God, and the knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_, are the most important. –Jonathan Edwards
2. The sinful nature desires what is contrary to the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ what is contrary to the sinful nature. –Galatians 5:17
3. You cannot slander \_\_\_\_\_; it is worse than words can paint it. –C.H. Spurgeon
4. A rat is a pig is a dog is a \_\_\_\_\_. –Ingrid Newkirk
5. If man is a product of evolution, one species among others, in a universe without purpose, then man's option is to \_\_\_\_\_. –Paul Kurtz
6. The purpose of man is like the purpose of the \_\_\_\_\_–to wiggle along as far as he can without dying. –Charles Darwin
7. We are left with the logical conclusion that we are nothing but a \_\_\_\_\_ man in a \_\_\_\_\_ universe looking for a \_\_\_\_\_ brain. –Del Tackett
8. As far as I know we just don't have any intrinsic instincts for \_\_\_\_\_. –Abraham Maslow
9. If man is good by nature..., it follows that he stays like that as long as nothing \_\_\_\_\_ to him corrupts him. –Jean Jacques R
10. Experience leads me to believe that it is \_\_\_\_\_ which are the major factor in our evil behaviors. –Carl Rogers

### **Notes or Questions**

*While watching the video, use this space to record your thoughts, any facts you want to remember, questions that arise, etc.*

*“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him.”*

*Genesis 1:27*

### **TRUTH 1 – Natural Man**

***Our culture says that man is purely material, the product of mindless forces.***

1. People who claim that they are mere accidents of biology still seem driven to find purpose and meaning in life. Why? What keeps them from living according to their beliefs? Why is suicide common today?
2. What presuppositions lie behind the radical environmental movement (not just our common desire to protect nature)? Or behind the animal rights cause? The abortion movement? What other societal trends can you trace to a belief that man is just another product of nature?

## **TRUTH 2 – Supernatural Man**

***The Bible teaches that man consists of both body and spirit and is created in the image of God.***

1. What makes man unique in the universe? What does it mean to be made in the image of God?
2. Describe the states of man. Which state are you in? What about friends and family? How concerned are you for those who have not been “redeemed”?

## **TRUTH 3 – “Find Yourself”?**

***The world says that man is naturally good, so evil must derive from the social institutions that stop him from doing what he wants.***

1. What evidence can you find that people have bought the concept of man's innocence? How does this lead to a culture of blame and a “victim mentality”?
2. If man is just a product of nature, how can anything be considered evil? What does the world have to say about this?
3. What solution does society offer to the individual's struggle for fulfillment? How has this pernicious lie worked out? Why are people so hostile to those of us who believe in moral absolutes?

## **TRUTH 4 – Deny Yourself**

***As Christians, we experience an inner conflict between our new nature and the old, fallen nature that causes us to think and do wrong.***

1. Are we the people we want to be? Are we able to think and act according to our best intentions? Why or why not? What are some common struggles of Christians today?
2. What can we do to win the battle that rages within? What did the apostle Paul say about it (Romans 7:14-25, 8:13; Colossians 3:5)?
3. What does it mean to say that morality is rooted in God's very nature? Why does He want us to reflect His character by our attitudes and behavior (Genesis 1:26-27; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:16; 1 John 3:2)?

### **Wrap-Up**

How can we humans be so wonderful and so terrible at the same time? In fact, why do we live in a world of both amazing beauty and shocking brutality? And if we are mere products of nature, why do we long for a perfect world in which we can live forever?

Only in the Bible do we find answers to these and other perplexing questions about life—answers that actually help us understand ourselves and the world we encounter every day.

### **What is What?**

*Here's an exercise to try on your own. Draw a line from each term in the first column to its definition in the second column. Terms are found in the lecture or at [mytruthproject.org](http://mytruthproject.org).*

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|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Imago goo          | a. Tap your inner desires to achieve full potential |
| 2. Anthropology       | b. Innocent, fallen, redeemed, glorified            |
| 3. Carl Rogers        | c. The study of mankind's nature and behavior       |
| 4. Abraham Maslow     | d. Promoter of self-actualization                   |
| 5. Self-actualization | e. A product of mindless, purposeless forces        |
| 6. Imago dei          | f. Psychologist who said man is basically good      |
| 7. Monistic           | g. Man made in the image of God                     |
| 8. States of man      | h. Made of both natural and supernatural elements   |
| 9. Dualistic          | i. Man is material and has no spiritual dimension   |

### **Check It Out**

For your reference and further review, here are some of the key Scripture passages that were mentioned in the video you just watched.

Genesis 1:27; 6:5  
Romans 5:12; 6:12; 7:14-20,24-25; 8:5-14  
1 Corinthians 15:42  
Galatians 5:16-17  
Colossians 3:5-10  
Hebrews 9:27  
Revelation 5:9; 20:15