

Sovereign Grace Church

“What Is Man?” outline

July 7, 2019

This morning we will continue our short series on crucial life questions. Last week we considered the question as to who or what God was? Essentially God is the most basic reality....the only uncreated and truly independent reality. This reality is an infinite, all-powerful spiritual Being consisting of three equal and interactive Persons. He is outside of time and thus has always been and always will be. His character defines for us all that is worthy of emulation as personal beings. To be against Him is to be against oneself. Thus the unseen is more basic than the seen....in a sense spirit is more real than matter in that matter was created by spirit. We also considered that all of this was knowable by human beings. Our understanding of God is just as much a matter of knowledge as any material fact.

This morning we continue with the question of what a human being is. This question is perhaps more debated than the question concerning God. Can one be a human being and not a be a person? Are human beings strictly material beings or do they consist of a duality of spirit and matter? What difference does the answer to these questions make with reference to legal status? We can not look at all the questions involved but we will look at a few basic ones and seek to discern the teaching of Scripture.

1. Human beings are a certain kind of person.

- Are human beings a duality of substances or strictly material things?
- Human beings are embodied personal powers

2. Human beings are God's special creation. Gen. 1: 26-27

- Human beings are beings that think, feel and will
Ex. 3:14; Psm 92:5; Isa 55: 8-9; Eph 4:30; Psm 16:11
- Human beings are male and female
Gen. 1: 27
- Human beings are created for worshipful fellowship w/ God.
Gen 5:24; Lev 26:12; Rev 21:3-4

- **Human beings were created to think God's thoughts after Him in true righteousness, holiness and knowledge. Col. 3:10; Eph 4:24**

 - **Human beings were given the task of dominion over creation. Gen 1: 28**

 - **Human beings are loved by God and have intrinsic worth I Tim 2:4**
- 3. Human beings are presently fallen. Eph. 2:1-2**
- 4. Human beings are redeemable. Jn 3:16**

Questions for Reflection and Conversation

- 1. How would you define a human being if you were asked to do so? Are all human beings persons? If they are not, what difference might that make in terms of legal rights? How do some argue that persons and human beings are not necessarily the same? How does our society's currently dominant world-view of Materialism impact this question?**

- 2. Are you a human being? Were you created in God's own image? If so, how would that impact your desire for a good life? Do you experience the law of God as an unbearable burden or as a means to release and freedom? How might both experiences be valid? What needs to change to go from the negative experience to the positive one?**

- 3. What does it mean to have dominion over creation? Were humans intended to manage creation on their own? How does fallen man's experience of exercising dominion differ from unfallen man's? As redeemed people, how should we see our vocations and callings?**

- 4. What happens when you decide to quit doing one thing and begin doing another? Was your choice caused by preceding events? Could you have chosen differently? How can God be sovereign and man be responsible for his choices at the same time?**