

The Doctrine of Humanity

WHO ARE WE?

For twentieth-century man, this phrase, **the image of God**, is as important as anything in Scripture, because men today can no longer answer the crucial question, "Who am I?" In his own naturalistic theories, with the uniformity of cause and effect in a closed system, with an evolutionary concept of a mechanical, chance parade from the atom to man, man has lost his unique

identity. ...Quite in contrast, a Christian does not have this problem. He knows who he is. If anything is a gift of God, this is it—knowing who you are.

—Francis A. Schaeffer, *Genesis in Space and Time*

WHO AM I?

A member of the genus Homo, family Hominidae, order Primates, class Mammalia, characterized by erect posture and an opposable thumb, especially a member of the only extant species, Homo sapiens, distinguished by the ability to communicate by means of organized speech and to record information in a variety of symbolic systems.

—Websters II New College Dictionary

A bipedal primate mammal.

—Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Purpose and meaning flow out of _____.
If I am no more than a clump of matter...a cosmic accident...a two-legged animal...a materialistic machine...then I will not only live a meaningless life but I will treat others as meaningless as well.

THE BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF HUMANITY

*So God created man in His image;
In the image of God He created him;
Male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27)*

- This is the first _____ in Scripture.
- In Hebrew, it consists of three lines of four words each.
- Each line repeats the same truth with different emphasis.

We are created by a powerful, intelligent, relational God, as the crown and apex of His creation, bearing the marks of His nature and distinctively designed as male and female.

WHO ARE WE?

We are DUST...

We are here because one odd group of fish had a peculiar fin anatomy that could transform into legs for terrestrial creatures... because a small and tenuous species, arising in Africa a quarter of a million years ago, has managed so far, to survive by hook and by crook. We may yearn for a 'higher answer' but none exists.

—Stephen Jay Gould

Man is a useless passion. It is meaningless that we live and it is meaningless that we die.

—Jean Paul-Satre (1905-80)

If there is no God, then all that exists is time and chance acting on matter. If this is true then the difference between your thoughts and mine correspond to the difference between shaking up a bottle of Mountain Dew and a bottle of Dr. Pepper.

—Douglas Wilson

He who denies the existence of God has some reason for wishing that God did not exist.

—Augustine (354-430)

We are created in God's image, the pinnacle of God's creation, more like God than any other creature, appointed to rule over the rest of creation.

—Wayne Grudem

1. WE ARE CREATED IN THE D _____.

Our Design



Our Purpose

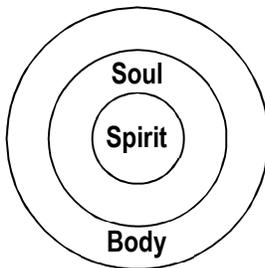
2. WE ARE CREATED FOR U _____.

Let Us make man in our image, according to Our likeness... (1:26a)

And the LORD God said, "It is not good for man to be alone; I will make a helper comparable to him." (2:18)

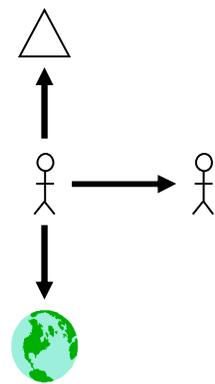
Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (2:24)

3. WE ARE CREATED WITH A S _____.



And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. —Genesis 2:6

4. WE ARE CREATED FOR A T _____.



We are created to....

- _____ God.
- _____ one another.
- _____ over the earth.

The image of God involves the powers of personality that make humans, like God, beings capable of interacting with other persons, of thinking and reflecting, and of willing freely.

—Millard Erickson

God created mankind alone in His image. In a sense, God created man and woman as His vice-regents, as His deputy rulers over His creation. —R.C. Sproul

God has created us in His image so that we may carry out a task, fulfill a mission, pursue a calling.

—Anthony Hoekema

The true uniqueness in man's formation is expressed by the act of the divine inbreathing. ...This is an act peculiar to the creation of man; no similar statement is made about the animals. The breath of Jehovah imparts to man the life which is his own, and awakens him to conscious possession of it. —James Orr

Man was responsibly subject to God; he was in fellowship with the neighbor as his equal; he was steward over the natural world; he was at peace with himself.

—Harry Boer

You have made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in You. —Augustine

Every single human being, no matter how much the image of God is marred by sin, or illness, or weakness, or age, or any other disability, still has the status of being in God's image and therefore must be treated with the dignity and respect that is due to God's image-bearer.

—Wayne Grudem