

GREAT BIBLE TRUTHS

6. Man



WHAT IS MAN?

The Christian view of man is that he is distinct from everything else God has created. In fact man is the crowing glory of God's creation and the object of his redemption. The Bible shows us that man is:-

1. A Creature

- Man owes his origin to God. Genesis 1:27, Acts 17:28
- He was created good. Genesis 1:31
- We know little about the way God created man, but clearly it was a direct act of God.

2. Made in the image of God

What does this mean?

- We have been created as a personal, spiritual being, with intellect, affections and a will. This means we were made to have fellowship with God and one another.
- We were made in the moral image of God, although this has been distorted by sin.
- God's intention was that man show forth his glory. Sadly sin has marred this. Romans 3:23
- The perfect image of God is seen in Jesus. As we look at Jesus we see what God had in mind for mankind. John 1:18, Colossians 1:15

3. Made for relationship

(a) With God

- Although we are individuals, we are not complete in ourselves, as God has made us to be dependent on him, in a relationship where we trust, love, worship, obey and serve him.
- This means that we are responsible to God and accountable for the life he has given us.

(b) With Man

- God made us with the ability and need to have fellowship with others. Genesis 2:18
- Although our relationship with God is the most important, we still need relationships with others. In fact our relationship with God and man is closely linked. 1 John 4:20

(c) With the physical world

- Man is part of the physical world, and yet apart from it. Genesis 2:7, 1 Corinthians 15:39
- Since God has made us in his image, we are above nature, and have dominion over it. Psalm 8:3-9
- God has created us for with spiritual and physical life.



How did the fall affect man's dominion over nature? Genesis 1:26

Will this be restored? Isaiah 11:6-9

We were created in the image of God. To what extent has sin affected this? Discuss.

4. Structure of man

We are told in Genesis 2 that man was created from dust, and given the breath of life from God, becoming a living being. This means we have a two-fold nature:- body and spirit. Matthew 10:28, Luke 8:55
These terms used in the Bible are spiritual, not scientific.

(a) Inner Life

(1) Heart

This is not speaking of our physical organ, but it is our inner personality and emotions.

(2) Mind

This is our intellect, outlook and attitudes.

(3) Spirit

- There are two words in Greek, (pneuma, psyche) which can be translated as spirit and soul.
- Are we body, soul and spirit, or just body and spirit? It isn't really clear. Some references indicate three, but this doesn't necessarily mean three distinct elements. 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Hebrews 4:12
- Probably the terms spirit and soul are interchangeable. Matthew 10:28
- Clearly we have an inner self which is very closely linked to the body. At death we lose this present physical body, and our inner being will be clothed with a new glorified body. Luke 23:46
- The Apostle Paul tells us about the nature of this new body in 1 Corinthians 15.

(b) Outer Life (Flesh)

There are many ways this word 'flesh' is used, but let's look at two main ways:

(1) Physical, earthly, present nature. When it is used in this way it isn't evil, as God created us good. Christ became flesh (John 1:14) and we now live with the limitations of the flesh. Galatians 2:20

(2) Our sinful nature. Sin has affected every part of our being. Romans 7:18
There is always a conflict between our flesh and the Spirit. Romans 7:14-25
When we allow our physical or fleshly desires to dominate us, it brings sin and death. Romans 8:6-8

5. Man is a sinner

Sadly man has failed to live up to the standard of God (Romans 3:23) and we have wandered far away from him. (Isaiah 53:6) God in his mercy has provided a means of redemption and this is the purpose of God's revelation to man.



*Contrast life in the flesh and life in the Spirit. How can we live according to the Spirit everyday?
Romans 8:1-14*



Every part of us must be renewed by the Spirit of God:

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| ▪ Our hearts | Matthew 14:18 |
| ▪ Our minds | Romans 12:2 |
| ▪ Our bodies | Romans 12:1, 13:14 |
| ▪ Our spirit | Romans 8:16 |