

## UNIT 2: God's Creating Work

Section 11: Anthropology: Origin of Man/Universality of Man

*Systematic Theologies:*

Berkof, Boyce, Calvin, Chafer, Culver,  
Erickson, Grudem, Lloyd-Jones, Ryrie

### INTRODUCTION:

Our term Anthropology comes from the combination of two Greek words: (1) ἀνθρωπος meaning man or humanity and (2) λόγος meaning “words about.” So anthropology is “discourse about man.” I’m sure many of us have encountered the term at the university setting. The world we live in has an ever-growing field of study involving man... as a matter of fact we might say that due to the selfishness and patent man-centeredness of the human race, it has been one of the most sought after disciplines throughout history. Man has continually been obsessed with the question “Who is Man? Why is he here? How did he come to be? What is man’s relationship to the rest of the world? What ought man pursue?” Etc...

Ultimately there are two different approaches to this subject. The first which we see most often today, approaches the topic from purely human conception. It is conceived by humans as they contemplate themselves with no eye to the Scriptures. Man sets himself up as the final judge of man-ness, reflecting a philosophy of his own invention. Much of the practice of secular schools of learning reflects this approach. In general, the examination is along two lines: (1) What man is – his natural evolution and (2) What man does – his cultural history and customs. From these studies, generalizations about man are developed... **Lewis Sperry Chafer** states, “As a subject in modern education, anthropology, though but recently developed, claims the same importance as the kindred sciences – biology and psychology. It incorporates the theories of evolution and is materialistic in character.”

Our approach to anthropology couldn't be more different... We will confine ourselves to the Word of God and human experience that provides confirming witness to the truth disclosed. While modern education gives no place to God's Word in its theories, we recognize that as Creator, God speaks more clearly and definitely to the human situation than any of us can! The apostle Paul, knowing this to be the case, used this type of argumentation while discussing “election” in Romans 9. When the “why” questions crescendo, eventually we are left with the answer, **v20-21** “On the contrary, **who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, “Why did you make me like this,” will it?** <sup>21</sup> Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?” We're told by the prophet **Jeremiah, 17:9-10** “The **heart is** more **deceitful** than all else And **is** desperately sick; Who can understand it? <sup>10</sup> “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.” So our own hearts can deceive us, so why set ourselves up as ultimate discerners of truth? That is a fallible standard! Or as the **Psalmist** exclaimed, **139:23** “**Search me,** O God, and know my heart; Try **me** and know my anxious thoughts; <sup>24</sup> And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.” We are in no position to make defining statements on the topic of man apart from God's revelation. As we've stated before, man's chief study is not himself, but his God... but in the process of studying “Theology” we come to the sub discipline of “anthropology.” Knowing God now brings us to a contemplation of man from God's perspective! Chafer quotes Matthew Fontaine Maury (a scientist whom the world honors as “pathfinder of the seas”) at length:

I have been blamed by men of science, both in this country and in England, for quoting the Bible in confirmation of the doctrines of physical geography. The Bible, they say, was not written for scientific purposes, and is therefore of no authority in matters of science. I beg pardon! The Bible *is* authority for everything it touches... When your men of science, with vain and hasty conceit, announce the discovery of disagreement between [science & scripture], rely upon it the fault is not with the Witness of His records, but with the “worm” who essays to interpret evidence which he does not understand. When I, a pioneer in one department of this beautiful science, discover the truths of revelation and the truths of science reflect light upon the other and each sustaining the other, how can I, as a truth-loving, knowledge-seeking man, fail to point out the beauty and to rejoice in its discovery? Reticence on such an occasion would be sin, and were I to suppress the emotion with which such discoveries ought to stir the soul, the waves of the sea would lift up their voice, and the very stones of the earth cry out against me.

I couldn't agree more... Whatever the Bible touches, it speaks with God's authority. Whatever we learn of man in the pages of sacred Scripture should be afforded our belief. As a matter of fact, God has provided such a treasury of information regarding man in his Word that we are able to speak much further than extra-biblical anthropologies are able to. We'll look at man's origin, his relationship to the rest of creation, his constitutional nature, and the relationship between the sexes over the next weeks. The major texts we'll be looking at are: **Genesis 1-3** and **Psalms 8** (see also Matt 19:4-5, Mark 10:6-7, Luke 3:38, I Cor 11:8-9, I Tim 2:13).

Because of its relationship to other major Christian doctrines, anthropology is extremely important! Having been made in the “image of God” we see how our anthropology and theology proper come into intersection... Since God the Son became Incarnate, he took on “human nature...” What does that mean? Without anthropology there would presumably have been no incarnation, atonement, no church... And here we have the unusual situation where the student of theology is also its subject... Especially in our day and age with the increasing amount of people undergoing “identity crisis” a thorough-going biblical anthropology is so needed! We'll spend several weeks discussing the main categories of study under anthropology.

*Q1: How did Man get here?*

*Q2: What is Man's relationship to the rest of Mankind?*

## **I. The Origin of Man**

### *A. Naturalistic Evolution*

1. This is the first of the two systems of thought that propose to answer the question of man's origin. Evolutionary theory is a speculation based upon assumptions, and is the best solution that lost men can come up with...
2. We've already spent considerable time talking about this theory in our previous discussion regarding Creation in general, so we won't have to go over all of the philosophical underpinnings of the system, but we do need to explain how their theory works itself out specifically in the contemplation of man...
3. **Chafer** explains so well: “Had they anything which they were willing to put in its place, thinking men would not tolerate a system which offers not one proof for any claim which it advances... To make man to be the result of an accidental evolutionary process springing from some supposed primordial germ—which germ itself cannot be accounted for apart from a Creator—and all this as a pure imaginative fancy without so

- much as a shadow of substance on which it may rest for proof, bears all the marks of mental desperation and bankruptcy of ideas.”
4. **Dr. Fleischmann**, “The Darwinian theory has not a single fact to support it ... is purely the product of the imagination.”
  5. **Dr. B. Kidd**, “Darwinism is a compound of astonishing presumption and incomparable ignorance.”
  6. **Let’s quickly look at one archaeological “find”:**
    - a. Professor Eugene Dubois made a discovery in Java during 1891-1892...
    - b. In a stratum which had fossil bones from many extinct species of animals he obtained five fragments of a strange kind of being – one which he regarded as a transitional form between man and ape – a supposed “missing link”
    - c. He named it “Pithecanthropus erectus” – aka “Java man”
    - d. The five fragments found were – a “skull cap,” a “left thigh bone,” and 3 teeth
    - e. The most distant of the fragments were 20 paces apart...
    - f. Later he added a 6<sup>th</sup> fragment – part of a lower jaw found in another part of the island but in a stratum of the same geological age.
    - g. Can we take this seriously? This hardly counts as a “missing link”...
    - h. **Chafer**, “God created man in His own image. Some men evidently prefer the *image* of the ape, but there are still those who prefer the *image* of God.”
  7. There have been some “theists” who have been influenced by evolutionary theory... the result: **Theistic Evolution**. They propose that God developed man through evolutionary process. But this amalgamation of “theology” and “science” results in violence done to both! You receive neither good theology nor science! Again **Chafer** explains, “God states in the Book, in which alone all conceptions of His Being have their source, the precise method He employed in the creation of man. To disregard this revelation and substitute a groundless human fiction in its place is to accuse God of untruth and to reject a plain Scripture with liberty granted to others to reject every other page of the Bible if their unbelief so dictates.”
  8. This was one of our overarching points as we discussed Genesis 1. If we can’t trust God’s word from the very beginning, then what makes us sure we can trust it everywhere else?

## B. *Special Creation of God*

1. Genesis provides us with two complementary accounts of creation... The 1<sup>st</sup> in Genesis one provides us with a cosmological view of God’s creative work – given sequentially... Genesis two gives us a supplement and views creation in light of God’s provision for mankind. It is here that we receive details on the garden of Eden and details of God’s creation of male and female in that order (a narrowed, particular focus)
  - a. **Culver**, “In chapter 1 mankind is culmination; in chapter 2 mankind is center.”
  - b. **Day 6: Gen 1:26-31** <sup>27</sup> God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." <sup>29</sup> Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; <sup>30</sup> and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky

and to everything that moves on the earth which has life, *I have given* every green plant for food"; and it was so.<sup>31</sup> God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

- c. **Read Genesis 2...**
2. Before Adam there were no humans – no “pre-Adamites”
  - a. Some have proposed that there were pre-Adam people... (some ask who Cain or Seth could take to marry or who Cain is worried about killing him – but this can be answered – brothers/sisters/nephews/nieces...)
  - b. But nothing in Genesis indicates a pre-Adamic race of people, and there is much in the Scriptures which speak against it!
    - (1) **Gen 2:5** Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground.
    - (2) **Gen 3:20** Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all *the* living.
  - c. Also notice how the NT interprets the Genesis account literally:
    - (1) **Jesus' quote: Matt 19:4-5** And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,<sup>5</sup> and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH '?( see also **Mark 10**).
    - (2) Male and Female Roles in Christian assembly: **I Cor 11:9-10, I Tim 2:12-14**
    - (3) We'll also notice Paul's argument in Romans 5 – universality of mankind...
3. Man was a new creation (w/o precedent when made on day 6):
  - a. It is interesting to note the “deliberation” that precedes the creation of man
    - (1) **Gen 1:26** “Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
    - (2) Some have proposed the “us” refers to (1) Trinity (2) Plural of Majesty or (3) Counsel w/ Angels...
    - (3) **Lloyd-Jones**, “It is quite clear – and it seems to me to be the only adequate explanation – that the three Persons of the blessed Trinity held counsel together before man was created.”
    - (4) **Berkof**, “Before the inspired writer records the creation of man, he leads us back, as it were, into the council of God, acquainting us with the divine decree in the words, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.’ Why should such a self-exhortation be in the plural, except for the reason that there is a plurality in God.”
  - b. **Note the words that are used to describe man's creation: v26 “make” v27 “created... created... created” 2:7 “formed”** – all of these terms in Hebrew indicate something has been created that is fresh, unique, or unprecedented...
    - (1) While each animal was created “according to its kind” there is no such phrase here... man is not told to “reproduce after any kind” either. Instead man is said to have been created in God's image and after His likeness!
    - (2) Again **Gen 1:26** “... Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness”

- (3) Man was created in the “image of God” (*more on this in next section of notes*)
- c. Also, remember, it is only after day 6 that God declares it was “very good.”
  - d. Man is given dominion over all the created orders of earth – he is caretaker of the earth and told to multiply and fill it... he is to exercise rule over the rest of creation...
4. Adam was formed from the dust of the ground... אָדָם means “ground” in Hebrew.
    - a. **Genesis 2:7** Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.
    - b. **Macdonald** in Creation and the Fall states “It is well known that the animal body is composed, in the inscrutable manner called *organization*, of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, lime, iron, sulphur, and phosphorus, substances which in their various combinations form a large part of the solid ground.”
    - c. **John Murray**, “There is congruity between man and his environment. And for this there is a necessity. If it were not so there would be a discrepancy between man and his habitat, between man and his task, in incompatibility that would have negated the verdict... ‘very good.’”
    - d. Even in the judgment given to Adam we see God declare: **Genesis 3:19** By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.” – from this we see how clearly God explains that man’s creation was from the dust, and he will return to the dust (*he did not evolve from animals as theistic evolutionists claim*).
    - e. **1 Corinthians 15:39** All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one *flesh* of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish.
    - f. **1 Cor 15:47** The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.
  5. After forming man’s body, God then gave Him life...
    - a. **Genesis 2:7** Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.
    - b. God breathed into man the “breath of life” – became a living soul/being...
    - c. There are both “material” and “immaterial” components of man (more on this later)

## II. The Universality of Man

### A. *All of Mankind is united in Origin...*

1. The Scriptures teach that the human race is organically united in an original, single, human, male specimen out of whom all others (included the first female) was formed.
2. Studies done in migration and philology (study of languages) has pointed to what the Bible declares very plainly – there seems to have been a common ancestry for all the families of mankind somewhere in central Asia.
3. **Berkhof**, “Also, study of the soul (“psychology”) reveals the fact that the souls of all men, to whatever tribes or nations they belong, are essentially the same. They have in common the same animal appetites, instincts, and passions, the same tendencies and capacities, and above all the same higher qualities, the mental and moral characteristics that belong exclusively to man.”
4. **Acts 14:15-17** and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM. <sup>16</sup> "In the generations gone by He permitted

- all the nations to go their own ways; <sup>17</sup> and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." <sup>18</sup> *Even* saying these things, with difficulty they restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.
5. **Acts 17:26-29** and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, <sup>27</sup> that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; <sup>28</sup> for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.' <sup>29</sup> "Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man."
  6. God has a "special love" for His people... and meanwhile He loves the whole world

*B. All of Mankind is equally guilty in Adam...*

1. The guilt, corruption, and culpability of the entire human race comes through Adam's first transgression – this is built on the unity of the race in Adam.
2. **Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—
3. **Culver**, "Adam was not merely archetypal man, he was *man*, the race, in a way that cannot be explained to Paul's satisfaction apart from the organic oneness of the race in Adam. If, as shall be treated later in connection with the doctrine of sin, we hold that Adam was the *representative* head of the race, then it is proper to remind ourselves that the seminal, organic connection of Adam with the race explains why God chose to regard him as our federal representative head."

*C. All those in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam are offered Pardon...*

1. The provision of salvation for all of mankind is found in our organic unity as well...
2. Christ in the incarnation, became united with humanity and then could fulfill righteousness and pay the penalty for those who would believe in Him!
3. **Romans 5:19** For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.
4. The body of Christ on earth and the "assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven" (**Heb 12:23**) will be composed ultimately 'from every tribe and language and people and nation' (**Rev 5:9**).

CONCLUSION:

As we think of each individual, some points need to be made by way of conclusion. In terms of individual existence, the beginning of each person's life is the same: at conception when sperm and egg unite. But beyond the how of existence, the Bible explains the why! Erickson, "The biblical picture of humanity's origin is that an all-wise, all-powerful, and good God created the human race to love and serve him, and to enjoy a relationship with him... the key to our identity will be found in the fact that God created us." We also understand that all of humanity is united as brothers due to common lineage all the way back to Adam. This means we ought to adopt a godly reverence for all humanity as created in the "image of God" and dispense with all prejudices/discriminations – no matter the nationality, color, language, sex, age (fetus to elderly), or economic or marriage status...