

301: Systematic Theology

Week 3 - Creation + Biblical Anthropology

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created

1. _____

2. _____

Genesis 1:31

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

1. If God is the main agent of creation, then we must reject _____

2. If God created everything good, then we must reject _____

Young Earth Theories

1. _____

2. _____

Old Earth Theories

1. _____

2 Peter 3:8

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Image of God (or Imago Dei)

1 - _____

2 - _____

C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare...There are no *ordinary* people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.

3 - _____

Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

4 - _____

Gen. 2:16-17 –

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die

Genesis 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

1 John 1:8 –

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Romans 3:10–18, 23

as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” “Their throat is an open grave, they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Mark 7:21-23 -

21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Isaiah 64:6 -

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Romans 2:21-25

21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22** Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

John Calvin

...man’s nature is a perpetual factory of idols

Original sin -

Psalm 51:3-5

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Total depravity -

1 Timothy 1:15

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

Malcolm Muggeridge -

The depravity of man is at once the most empirically verifiable reality but at the same time the most intellectually resisted fact.

G. K. Chesterton:

Certain new theologians dispute original sin, which is the one Christian doctrine that can really be proven... empirically verifiable and validated by [thousands of] years of human history.

G.K. Chesterton

What's wrong with the world? I am.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- What stood out to you from the lesson?
- Have you experienced “tension” between the Bible and science either personally or intellectually? How did you resolve that?
- Part of the tension with the Imago Dei and our sinfulness means we don’t want to totally romanticize or demonize individuals. Have you seen personal examples of erring towards one side over the other?

CASE STUDIES

How would you handle each of the following scenarios? What are the possible theological beliefs behind their statements/actions? What passages could you point them to?

- You start building a friendship with someone who’s not a Christian. To him, the idea of being “sinful” and “depraved” sounds archaic and unmodern, and the whole point of being religious is to just try and be the best person you can be.
- In LifeGroup you come across a passage where the author sounds arrogant. Someone in the group says we should disregard it because, after all, the author was sinful.

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

[“The Image of God” The Bible Project](#)

[The Reason for God by Tim Keller](#)

[Created in God’s Image by Anthony Hoekema](#)

[Life is a Miracle by Wendell Berry](#)