

Biblical Anthropology Continued:

The Role or Purpose of Man. Man was created for fellowship or communion with God. Unlike any of the other creatures, he has a fundamental likeness to God: he is created in the "image of God" (Gen 1:26-27). Man meets and talks with God in the Garden of Eden (Gen 2:15-17). This was the original intention of God for man. It also becomes God's continuing intention, as He ultimately intervenes to draw man back to Himself. Jesus, the Redeemer, was sent for this reason as well.

Man is not only to have fellowship with God; he is to glorify Him, by what he is and what he does. (Although we know that the persons of the trinity were glorious and complete within themselves, fully loving each other before the foundation of the world, so God did not NEED to create us. But He wanted to – probably to display the glories of His grace, power, and creative ability. The fact that He continually said, "It is good" means that He took pleasure in His own creation.)

Isa. 43:7 - Everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made."

1 Cor 10:31 - Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Eph 1:11-12 -- In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

Man is also created to do God's will and work. Man was created in God's image so he might "have dominion" over the rest of creation (Gen 1:26,28) or perform God's work of ruling the creation. This assignment of work to be done came before the FALL. As a result of the Fall, work took on its unpleasant or cursed character (Gen 3:17-19).

The Westminster Shorter Catechism writes --

Question. 1. What is the chief end of man?

Answer. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever.

The Restoration of Man. God has acted to restore man to his original state of innocence and fellowship with God. He has done this by sending His Son to die for man so man might be reconciled to God and be renewed or "born again" (John 3:3,7). The aim of this is to restore man to a dynamic, vital relationship with God

Rom 6:4 -- Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

2 Cor 5:20 -- Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Man is most fully serving His divine human purpose when he is fulfilling the intention of God for him: worshiping, serving, and loving God. Of all creatures, only man has been given this blessed privilege.

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Hamartiology - the doctrine of sin

Hamartia – common Greek word translated “sin.” In essence it means “to miss the mark.” In Greek literature it is a flaw in character that brings about the downfall of the hero of a tragedy.

Anomia – Greek word for lawlessness or iniquity. (a-nomos)

I John 3:4. "Every one that doeth sin doeth also lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness."

Read Genesis 2:16-18 and then chapter 3

Sin is rebellion. It is a denial of God's true Being and His right to establish rules in His creation.

Consequences of sin:

Genesis 6:5 -- Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Jeremiah 17:9 – (NASB) "The heart is more deceitful than all else
And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?
(KJV) - The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately
wicked: who can know it?

Psalms 14:1-3 (identical to Ps. 53: 1-3) – The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God," They are corrupt, and have committed abominable injustice; There is no one who does good. God has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there is anyone who understands, Who seeks after God. Every one of them has turned aside; together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.

Romans 3:10-18 (quoting from Ps. 14:1-3 & Psalm 53:1-3-- as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE. (From Psalm 9:5) THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, (From Psalm 140:3) WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING, THE POISON OF ASPES IS UNDER THEIR LIPS; (From Psalm 10:7) WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS; (Isa. 59:7) THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN. (Psalm 36:1) THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

Dead in Sin

Adam was told that when he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he would die. Yet, he lived hundreds of years on earth? So, in what way did Adam die?

Ezekiel 18:4 -- Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

1Cor. 15:22 - For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:1-3 -- And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Colossians 2:13-14 -- When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Being "Dead in Sin" --

- Does not get rid of the Image of God.
- Affects entire being of man, including the mind and knowledge
- Places the human will in bondage to sin
- Makes man morally unable to choose the good
 - a. John 6:44 - "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.
 - b. John 6:65 - And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."
- Makes "works salvation" an impossibility

- a. Romans 8:5-8 -- For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- b. Gal. 3:10-11 -- For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM." Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."
- c. Isa. 64:6 -- For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. (KJV) - But we are all as an unclean [thing], and all our righteousnesses [are] as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.
 - Emphasizes God's sovereignty, man's need, causing us to depend on grace, not on ourselves.

This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead (Ecclesiastes 9:3).

The Biblical Terminology of Sin

Hebrew

Chata

Ra

Pasha

Awon

Shagag

Asham

Rasha

Taah

Greek

Kakos

Poneros

Asebes

Enochos

Hamartia

Adikia

Anomos (anomia)

Parabates

Agnoein

Planao

Paraptoma

Hypocrisy