

New Testament Theology

(NT2)

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Christian Anthropology

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New Testament Theology (NT2)

1. Introduction to New Testament Theology
2. Christology & Incarnation
3. Trinity (adding Doctrines of Father & Holy Spirit)
4. Ecclesiology (The Church)
5. Christian Anthropology (Being Human before God)
6. Soteriology (Sin & Salvation)
7. Eschatology (Last Things)
8. Conclusion and Final Exam

Christian Anthropology

Question: What does it mean to be human?

- **Theological Anthropology** – the study of the humanity ("anthropology") as it relates to God. What does it mean to be "human" in light of a belief in God; especially, in what way are humans made in the image of God?

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:26-27

Only the fact that humanity was made in the image of God and was created for a unique relationship with God, but fell from that relationship by disobedience and betrayal, gives us a reasonable explanation for what is wrong with us and what we can now do about it.

Christian Anthropology

What was God's intention in creating humanity?

1. For His pleasure and glory.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning — the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.
Genesis 1:31-2:1

2. For fellowship.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"
Genesis 3:8-9

3. To care for Creation.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:28

Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.... ¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Genesis 2:8, 15

Christian Anthropology

In what way are people made in the image of God?

- *Self-aware
- * Spiritually aware
- *Having moral capacity
- *Having volition
- * Communicative
- * Creative
- * Rational
- * Trichotomous or Dichotomous

How are human beings made? What are we, really?

1. Do human beings have two parts or three – dichotomous or trichotomous?
2. What is the relationship between body, soul and spirit?
3. What is the human soul?
4. How are human souls created – Traducianism vs. Creationism?
5. What is the difference between soul and spirit?

The Importance of a Christian Anthropology

- Every culture ever discovered has sensed there is something wrong with humanity.
- A clear Christian anthropology is necessary to make sense of who and what we are, and what is wrong with us – the existence of sin and evil, the Fall and Redemption...

“It is impossible to agree on ethics, on how to act, on what is good and not, if you disagree about metaphysics and anthropology. And since ethics is unavoidable, so is anthropology... you can't know what is good for man until you know what man is...”

Peter Kreeft

Doctrine of Sin – Hamartiology

Hamartiology: from Greek *hamartia*, “missing the mark;” and *logia*, “the study of.”

Original Sin: Sin is inherited from our original ancestors who rebelled against God, and so is a pervasive plague for all humanity over all time.

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Psalm 51:5

Pelagianism: Adam only “set a bad example” for his descendants (with Jesus, consequently, “setting the good example”), and original sin did not taint subsequent human nature, so that people are still capable of choosing good and evil without help from God. (A heresy, but common.)

Doctrine of Sin – Hamartiology

What is sin?

Anything in a creature which does not express, or which is contrary to, the holy character of the Creator.

“Sin” (with a capital) is our spirit of rebellion against God, placed in us as part of our humanity, inherited (or “imputed”) from our human ancestors. (The “plague of Sin.”)

But, “sins” are the acts we commit which reflect the Sinful nature that is in us.

We are not Sinners because we commit sins; we commit sins because we are Sinners (“Original Sin”).

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Psalm 51:5

Doctrine of Sin – Hamartiology

Sin began with the Pride and Fall of Satan

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! ¹³ You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. ¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." ¹⁵ But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

Isaiah 14:12-15

And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home — these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Jude 6-7

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;

2 Peter 2:4-5

Doctrine of Sin – Hamartiology

In Adam, we ALL fell from grace (“Original Sin”).

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— ¹³ for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:12-19

Doctrine of Sin – Hamartiology

In Adam, we ALL fell from grace (“Original Sin”).

We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. ¹⁰ As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹
there is no one who understands, no one who seeks
God. ¹² All have turned away, they have together
become worthless; there is no one who does good,
not even one." Romans 3:9-12

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of
God... Romans 3:23-24