

# **Systematic Theology 2 (TH4)**

## **Doctrine of Humanity**

(Theological Anthropology)

April 11, 2014

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**Lakeside institute of Theology**



# Systematic Theology 2 (TH4)

Apr. 4 – Re-Intro to Systematic Theology;  
God's Providence

Apr. 11 – Doctrine of Humanity

Apr. 18 – **No Class** (Holy Week)

Apr. 25 – Doctrines of Sin & Redemption

May 2 – Doctrines of Sanctification &  
Glorification

May 9 – **No Class**

May 16 – Doctrine of the Church

May 23 – Doctrines of the Sacraments & Gifts  
of the Holy Spirit

May 30 – Doctrine of the Future; Final Exam

# The Doctrine of Man – Christian Anthropology

What does it mean to be human in the light of a belief in God?

- **Anthropology** – the study of humanity, especially the comparative study of the physical and social characteristics of humanity across time and places.
- **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?

# Christian Anthropology

**Theological anthropology typically considers a number of questions:**

1. How did humanity come into being?
  2. What does it mean that humanity was made in the image of God?
  3. For what purpose was humanity created?
  4. Of what is humanity made?
  5. Of what parts do we consist? Is there a difference in soul and spirit?
  6. What is the destiny of humanity, and what affects that destiny?
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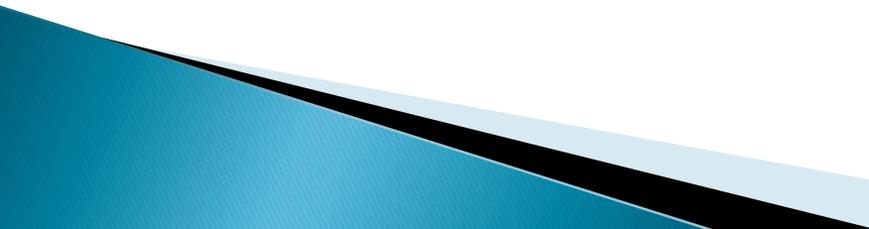
# Christian Anthropology

## 1. How did humanity come into being?

Judaism and Christianity insist that humanity did not come into existence by accident or chance, but rather as an intentional act, created by an all-powerful God as the high-point of his work in creating the universe.

*Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

Genesis 2:7



# Christian Anthropology

## 2. What does it mean that humanity was made in the image of God?

We were made to “resemble” God – not in the sense of our material, flesh-and-blood body (because God is Spirit – John 4:24), but in our immaterial selves.

*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." <sup>27</sup> 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

# Christian Anthropology

## 2. What does it mean that humanity was made in the image of God?

We are made in God's image **mentally, morally** and **socially**:

- **Mentally** – we are sentient, rational, volitional agents, capable of intellectual reflection and creativity.
- **Morally** – in our original state we were righteous and morally pure, and we still retain enough of this aspect to be able to know right from wrong and to choose.
- **Socially** – we were created for relationship in a deeper and more intimate way than any other created being. In particular, we were made in God's image so that we might be in relationship with Him.

# Christian Anthropology

## 3. For what purpose was humanity created?

According to the Westminster Confession Shorter Catechism:  
**“What is the chief end of man?”**

**A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever.** (Psalm 16:5-11, 86:9; Isaiah 12:2, 60:21; Luke 2:10; Romans 11:36; I Corinthians 6:20, 10:31; Phil. 4:4; Revelation 4:11, 21:3-4)

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*“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

*Revelation 21:3-4*

# Christian Anthropology

## 3. For what purpose was humanity created?

- **For God's good pleasure.** (*God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Genesis 1:31*)
- **For us to be in relationship with God – that we might love and glorify Him.** (*“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” Revelation 4:11*)
- **To be stewards of creation.** (*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Genesis 2:15*)

# Christian Anthropology

## 4. Of what is humanity made?

All people have both material and immaterial parts.

Our ***material*** selves – our flesh-and-blood bodies – make us like all other created material beings.

But our ***immaterial*** selves – our soul/spirit essence – makes us like God in a way unlike any other created material being.

Of the two, the **immaterial soul/spirit** is more what our true selves are – our eternal spiritual selves.

***“Never tell a child,” said George Macdonald, ‘you have a soul. Teach him, you are a soul; you have a body.’***

# Christian Anthropology

## 5. Of what parts do we consist? (Is there a difference in soul and spirit?)

1. **Body** – our physical, material self.
2. **Soul/Spirit** – our spiritual, immaterial self.

## OR...

1. **Body** – our physical, material self.
  2. **Soul** – our spiritual self that is able to think, reason, feel and relate to the world.
  3. **Spirit** – our spiritual self that is our moral nature and which has free will to choose good or evil, and which is able to relate to God.
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# Christian Anthropology

## 5. Of what parts do we consist? (Is there a difference in soul and spirit?)

**Dichotomous**: belief that people have two basic parts – body and soul/spirit.

**Trichotomous**: belief that people have three basic parts – body, soul, spirit (with a distinction made between soul and spirit).  
*(Hebrews 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:23)*

# Christian Anthropology

## 5. Of what parts do we consist? (Where do our souls/spirits come from?)

**Creationism**: belief that every soul is newly created by God as needed, upon conception of a new baby in the womb.

**Traducianism**: belief that the soul is created upon the union of mother and father, just as the physical body is created.

# 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...
- 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.

- ▶ *“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

- ▶ Failure in this regard has been responsible for most of the devastatingly wrong directions humanity has gone in over the past two centuries: evolution that led to eugenics; dialectical materialism that led to Communism; Freudian psychology that led to the sexual revolution, mass infidelity, STDs, & abortion.





# 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?

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Ephesians 5:22–29