

Monday Biblical Anthropology

Anthropology is the study of man. The humanist, evolutionary perspective teaches that man is the product of accidental genetic mutations over a long period of time. The Biblical perspective teaches that man is God's special creation, made in His own image, on the sixth day. What is the Biblical evidence?

1. Many things in Scripture point to the fact that man is distinct in creation. He is not part of the animal kingdom. Read Genesis 1:28 – What does this verse teach about man's position in creation?
2. Read Genesis 2:19-20 – In these verses Adam named the animals. What does that have to do with his distinction from animals?
3. Go back and read verse 18. God brought all the animals to Adam to find a suitable helper for him. There was no suitable helper found for Adam among all the animals. What does that teach you about man's special creation?
4. The New Testament also teaches the distinction between man and animals. Read I Corinthians 15:39 – What different divisions of creation did God make?
5. Jesus spoke of man's beginning in Mark 10:6. Read it – When was man created according to that verse? Was it after millions or billions of years?
6. How should the fact that you are different than the rest of creation change your behavior?
7. What is your responsibility to your Creator?

Man is not an animal. He is not a close relative to an animal. The only similarity between the two is their Creator.

Tuesday Biblical Anthropology

Evolution uses death as a helper in the origin of man. This can be seen in many areas of life. We will look at some of them today. The Bible's teachings about death are quite opposite to the evolutionary teaching.

1. Natural selection by the survival of the fittest is thought by some to be one of the proofs for evolution. The weak die and the strong get stronger. Some use this as an argument to support abortion. The baby will be sick or deformed, and it is not viable now, so abort it if you wish. Read Genesis 16:11 – What did the angel tell Sarai that she had?
2. Some scientists are researching the benefits of cannibalism and encouraging its practice. They use evolution and the supposed connection to the animal world to support their claims. Many animals are carnivorous and eat their own kind. They say that humans should do the same. Read Exodus 20:13 – What does this verse teach about cannibalism?
3. Charles Darwin contended that death helped to bring about a higher, stronger race. In other words death is responsible for the introduction of man. Read I Corinthians 15:21 – According to this verse, what came first, death or man?
4. Racism is permitted on the basis of evolution. Evolutionists claim that some "races" of people are more highly evolved than others. Therefore it is acceptable to dislike people based on their skin color or their nationality. Read Acts 17:26 – What does this verse teach about the different races?
5. How should the fact that we are specially created by God change the way we treat other people?

We are not animals. We are people made in God's image. Every person can make that claim. To treat other people with anything less than respect is to work against God's design.

Wednesday
Biblical Anthropology

Is there more to life than the body? Some say, “Yes.” Some say, “No.” Those who say “yes” reach their conclusions from Biblical principles, while those who say “no” reach theirs from other sources. What are they, and what does the Bible say about this subject?

1. The *Humanist Manifesto I* states, “Holding an organic view of life, humanists find that the traditional dualism of mind and body must be rejected.” In other words man is only a body and has no immaterial parts. This gives those who believe this no hope beyond the grave. There is no reason to live because we just get recycled into dirt in the end. Read Matthew 6:25 – What does this verse teach about the body and life?

2. Read the following verses and tell what non-material part of man is mentioned in each.

Matthew 10:28 –

Acts 7:59 –

Genesis 6:5 –

Romans 12:1-2 –

Acts 24:16 –

Romans 7:16 –

3. Obviously, it cannot be proven scientifically that these exist because science deals with things that can be seen and observed. It must be a matter of faith. Read Hebrews 11:3 – What gives us understanding in scientific areas?

Man is both material and immaterial. When your body dies, your soul and spirit will live on. Where will yours be?

Thursday
Biblical Anthropology

The Bible talks a lot about the soul and spirit of man. Hebrews 4:12 and I Thessalonians 5:23 both make a distinction between them. Fill in the table below and use it to help you gain a better understanding of the human soul and spirit.

REFERENCE	TEACHING
Matthew 22:37	
I Corinthians 2:11	
John 12:27	
John 13:21	
James 1:21	
I Corinthians 5:5	
Ecclesiastes 8:8	
Proverbs 20:27	
Psalms 19:7	
Isaiah 57:15	
Ezekiel 33:5	

The last verse talked about a person who heeds a warning will deliver his soul. God has given countless warnings of the future. Will you be ready to meet Him? It all depends on your relationship with Jesus Christ. Have you ever believed on Him and asked Him to forgive you of your sin and save you? That’s the key to eternal life.

Friday Biblical Anthropology

Man is a distinct creation of God. Nothing else was made quite like man. He is unique and distinct from the rest of creation. Even humanists and evolutionists would agree that there are differences between people and humans, but they reach that conclusion from a totally different direction. What do the evolutionists teach? What does the Bible teach?

1. The *Humanist Manifesto I* states, “Humanism believes that man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as the result of a continuous process.” To what then would the humanist say that we are most closely related?
2. What are some possible consequences of claiming that we are just a little higher than monkeys?
3. Biblical creationists view man completely differently. Read Genesis 1:26-27 – What is the fundamental difference between people and animals?
4. Read Psalm 8:4-5 – What does this verse teach us about man’s position in creation?
5. How close are angels and monkeys?
6. How close then are man and monkeys?
7. If man is that close to angels and that far from animals, how should we act?

We are far from animals. The “animal” urges and desires that we experience must be controlled and made to be obedient to Christ. We are not animals. Christ did not die for animals; He died for people. Be sure to love those around you unselfishly!

Saturday Biblical Anthropology

God said that He made us in the His own image. That statement could be confusing or misleading. Just what exactly does it mean to be made in His image? It means that we have many of the same characteristics that God has.

1. Read Psalm 90:1-2 – What do these verses teach about God’s relationship with time?
2. Though man certainly had a beginning, will he continue to live forever?
3. Read I Peter 5:7 – What characteristic of God is mentioned in this verse?
4. How should people demonstrate this characteristic to other people?
5. Read I John 4:7-8 – What characteristic of God is mentioned?
6. How should we demonstrate it to others?
7. Read I Samuel 2:3 – What characteristic of God is mentioned?
8. According to II Peter 1:5, should this also be a characteristic of people?
9. Read Jude 1:25 – Glory and majesty are reserved for God. What other two characteristics of God are listed here?
10. In what areas of life ought you to exercise dominion?

Man was made in God’s image. This doesn’t mean that God has hands and feet. God is a spirit. It does mean that He has given us some of the same characteristics that He has. He didn’t give them to us to waste, but to use for the benefit of others.

Sunday Biblical Anthropology

We are fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image. We have a special, privileged place in creation. God did that on purpose. It was no accident. Therefore, God had a reason for it. What is our responsibility to God and others in light of our position in creation?

1. Read James 4:6-7 – According to these verses, what is your responsibility to God?
2. Since people are made in God's image, do you have the same responsibility to others? Read Hebrews 13:17 and I Peter 2:13.
3. Read Micah 6:8 – What three responsibilities toward God are listed here?
4. Read I Thessalonians 2:10 – Should people do justly in regards to other people?
5. Read Matthew 5:7 – What is man's responsibility to others in the area of mercy?
6. Read I Peter 5:5 – Should people be humble with each other?
7. Read I Samuel 12:24 – What active responsibility do people have to God?
8. Read I Peter 4:9-10 – Since we are made in God image, are we also responsible to serve other people around us?
9. How can you put all the things into action this coming week?

It is a special privilege to be made in God image, but that special privilege comes with man big responsibilities, both to God and other people. Be faithful to them!