The Doctrine of Man

What God says about the pinnacle of His Creation and why it is so important to understand.

What God says mankind is and what He says mankind is not.
The Doctrine of Man

Objective:

How God created and what He says about the crown jewel of His creation; mankind, is of the utmost importance to Christians. It is my prayer that at the end of this lesson, you will have an understanding; from God’s Word, of what He says mankind is and perhaps more importantly; what He says mankind is not. It is my hope that you will further grasp why understanding these truths are essential for every Christian as a foundational pillar to his or her faith. To know God better, we must first know ourselves.
The Doctrine of Man

Terms:

A **Worldview** is a comprehensive understanding of the world especially from a specific point of view. Essentially it is the set of assumptions, principles, morals, and or beliefs; through which we interpret and relate to the world around us.

**Philosophy** is the study of the nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline.

**Ideology** is a system of ideas, ideals or philosophies, that forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy. Usually a direct result or application of our worldview.

**Naturalistic evolution theory** (or unguided evolution) is the view that new species of life came into being as a result of undirected natural processes only. Without supernatural intervention. The opposite viewpoint to this is Creationism. Thus, it is "a view that was expressly intended to take God out of the picture of creation".
The Doctrine of Man

Terms:

**Atheism** comes from the Latin word Theo which means God and the prefix A- which means without. It is defined as the denial of the existence of an all-knowing and all-powerful, creator being.

**Humanism** is a comprehensive, nonreligious worldview incorporating a secular philosophy. A worldview rooted in naturalistic science.

**Deism** is the combination of the transcendence of a god and the belief that he cannot, or at least chooses not to interact with, nor involve himself in his own creation. The “divine watch maker” concept of God supposes that God built the universe and set its processes in motion, then walked away.

**Deistic evolution theory** is a view which involves accepting the scientific evidence for naturalistic evolution and age of the universe in billions of years whilst advocating for the view that a deistic god created the universe, but has not interfered since the initial creation event. A god created our world and set the mechanics of evolution in motion, but is no longer involved in directing its course. It’s an attempt at compromise between Creationist camp and the Evolutionist camp.
The Doctrine of Man

Terms:

**Creationism** is the belief that the earth and the universe and the various kinds of animals, plants, and mankind were created by God. Those that hold the views of Creationism are referred to as Creationists. Creationism runs contrary to the beliefs of Atheists who believe that the universe was not created by God because to them He does not exist. The vast majority of Christians and Christian leaders throughout history have accepted the biblical (Genesis) account of creation.

**Intelligent design theory** holds that certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause or involvement by a designer, (external agent) not an undirected random process such as natural selection (evolution).
The Doctrine of Man

Terms:

“Imago dei” Latin phrase means “The Image of God” is a concept and theological doctrine in Judaism, Christianity, and Sufi Islam, which asserts that human beings are created in the image and likeness of God. (Genesis 1:26)

“This is where the rubber hits the road!” A person’s worldview hinges on this concept!

If you suppose there is no God and therefore we can not be created in His image you will end up with a secular worldview.

If you hold a deistic/agnostic view of creation you will most likely still end up with a secular worldview.

If you believe in the Biblical account of creation and that as the Bible states we are created in God’s image you will have a well entrenched Biblical or Christian worldview.

My goal here today is to attempt to explain why your worldview on this issue is so important and if necessary help reorient your worldview toward the Bible and its truth about origin and nature of Man.
The Doctrine of Man

Worldviews

To frame the discussion most secular - humanistic worldviews are built upon two false premises.

First that Man is an evolved; not created being. Although, perhaps more physically complex or evolved than other creatures; ultimately no different in origin and nature than your basic single celled organism. We are nothing special in that in the secular worldview any living thing can eventually achieve higher levels of complexity given enough time.

Secondly, that Man is essentially good and can achieve higher states of being via his intellect, reasoning abilities, and the sheer power of his; will alone. (Humanism). The modern academic world has elevated both false premises to the level of tenants of a secular humanistic religion with Atheism its apparent goal.
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Worldviews

In contrast the Christian worldview’s two main premises are:

First that from God’s Word we know that Man is not only a created being, but is the pinnacle of God’s creation; as he is created in God’s image (imago dei).

Secondly, from God’s Word that Mankind is not essentially good, but inherently evil and when left to his own, he will subjugate, hurt, and even kill his fellow man at every opportunity. To prove this point let’s consider the track record of just the last 100 or so years of Godless-humanistic ideologies; such as fascism and communism.
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Worldviews

Results of Humanistic or secular worldviews over the last 100 years.

Fascist – Adolf Hitler 1934-1945 – Death toll: some 17 – 20 million to include 6.2 million Jews

Communist – Ho Chi Minh 1945-1969 – Death toll: 1.7 million

Communist – Pol Pot 1975-1979 – Death toll: 2.4 million

Communist – Joseph Stalin 1941-1953 – Death toll: some 40 – 62 million

Communist – Mao Zedong – 1943-1976 - Death toll: some 45 – 75 million

“In a fallen world marked by human depravity and deep-seated sin, in a world where Hitler, Stalin and Mao had recruited millions of followers to commit mass murder, love must harness power and seek justice in order to have a moral meaning. Love without power remained impotent, and power without love was bankrupt.” - Timothy B. Tyson

As we can see from this sad list of the who’s who of humanistic ideologies, these tenants of the Christian faith stand in stark contrast to the lies of humanism. This evidence stands as exhibit A of our failure to meet God’s standard and demonstrates our need for a Savior. Salvation through faith in the finished work on the cross of God’s son; Jesus Christ as His stated goal.

“Sin is not weakness, it is a disease; it is red-handed rebellion against God and the magnitude of that rebellion is expressed by Calvary’s cross.” – Oswald Chambers
The Doctrine of Man

Worldviews

Christian or Biblical worldview.

Man is a created being. (Genesis 2:7)

Man is not the result of random chance or evolution. (Psalm 139:13-14)

Man’s creation was ordained of God (Isaiah 43:7)

God was and is purposefully and personally involved with Man’s creation. (Genesis 2:7, Psalm 139:13-14)

Why did God create Man?

To glorify God (Himself) and to demonstrate the greatness of His Character by functioning according to His design and will in all aspects of life. Isaiah 43:7

To be useful to God – To serve Him and to serve each other 1st Peter 4:10-11

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” - C. S. Lewis
The Doctrine of Man

Worldviews

Christian or Biblical worldview.

God did not create mankind and then walk away from His creation. We are Not a result of Deistic Evolution. (Matthew 10:29-31)

Man is not simply a higher form animal. He was given dominion over the earth and its creatures by God. We are Not a result of naturalistic evolution. (Genesis 1:28-30, 2:15-17)

God gave Man the intellect to perceive and appreciate His creation and Man’s place in it. (Genesis 2:19-20, Romans 1:19-20)

Man is the crowning achievement in God’s Creation. The biblical account of creation tells us that God spent the first five days creating the universe, the earth, the oceans, and mountains of the earth and all the plants and animals. At this point in the creation week God seems to slow down and spend an entire day focusing on the next part of His creation. On this, the sixth day He created man.
The Doctrine of Man

Worldviews

Christian or Biblical worldview.

Imago dei - In the image of God. (Genesis 1:26-31, Ephesians 4:23-24)

He spent an entire day on Man’s creation.

He breathed the “breath of life” into Adam. The Bible does not state that he did this to any other part of His creation. (Genesis 2:7)

God gave Adam dominion over His creation.

Human beings were created with a mixture of physical and spiritual attributes. This made Adam fundamentally different from all the animals that God created, which is why none of them were suitable as companions for Adam. (Genesis 1:26-28)

God fashioned Adam in His own image.

Like the rest of God’s creation Man exists as a temporal physical being, but unlike the rest of God’s creation and more like God himself; Man possesses an eternal spirit as well. (a soul)
The Doctrine of Man

Worldviews

Christian or Biblical worldview.

Imago dei - In the image of God. (Genesis 1:26-31, Ephesians 4:23-24)

Man's creation involved two separate components

Material (physical) and Spiritual

While Man’s physical body is temporal his spirit is eternal. (Ecclesiastes 12:7)

Spiritual

Adam received the “Breath of Life” from God; himself.

Then man becomes a living being.

God's breath is what gives the body life.

God’s breath gave us our spirit/soul.

This is the immaterial/spiritual component of man. (Imago dei)
The Doctrine of Man

Worldviews

Christian or Biblical worldview.

Imago dei - In the image of God. (Genesis 1:26-31, Ephesians 4:23-24)

God has given man knowledge of His moral laws. He therefore, knows right from wrong. (Romans 2:15)

Man possess a natural desire to look beyond himself to something more than himself. A desire to know his maker. (Proverbs 8:17)

“I have found a desire within myself that no experience in this world can satisfy; the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.” – C. S. Lewis
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Worldviews

Christian or Biblical worldview.

Material (Physical)

Man’s physical bodies may also bear God’s fingerprints?

Laminin argument? (Colossians 1:17)

Colossians 1:17 By Him (Yeshua) all things are held together. Laminin protein holds us together
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Worldviews

Christian or Biblical worldview.

Man’s Material (Physical nature)

God created the two distinct genders.

God created Eve (Woman) from Adam as companion and helpmate for Man. *Note: That in Genesis 2:18 is the only time during His creation work that God said something isn’t good.

God made Woman from Man’s own flesh. (Genesis 2:18, 2:21-24)

Gender is not fluid, ambiguous, or up to us to decide. Everything about us including our gender was decided by our Creator before we were born. (Psalm 139:16)

God designed the sexes, both Male and Female to fulfill distinct and complimentary roles and purposes.

God designed the sexes, both Male and Female to come together in Marriage to form the foundation for the family which is itself the foundation and building blocks for society and nations. (Colossians 3:18-12, Genesis 1:28, Proverbs 22:6)
The Doctrine of Man

Worldviews

Christian or Biblical worldview.

Man is **NOT** inherently good. (Psalm 51:5, Jeremiah 17:9, Genesis 6:5, Galatians 5:17, and Romans 3:9-19)

Man because of his inherited sin nature is wicked and perishing. He can not save himself and is in desperate need of a Savior.

(Psalms 14:1, Titus 1:15-16)

“No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good.” – C. S. Lewis – Mere Christianity

“It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or perhaps insane.” – Richard Dawkins – Angry Atheist – Chief Resident God basher

“God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him. How shall we, the murderers of all murderers, comfort ourselves?” Friedrich Nietzsche – The Madman

“Without God and the future life? How will man be after that? It certainly means everything is permitted now” – The Brothers Karamazov
The Doctrine of Man

Verses:

Genesis 1:26 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. 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.” 29 And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Isaiah 43:7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

Romans 1:19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.
The Doctrine of Man

Verses:

Romans 2:15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Psalms 139:16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
The Doctrine of Man

Verses:

Genesis 2:7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Genesis 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 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 from it you will certainly die.”

Genesis 2:19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.
The Doctrine of Man

Verses:

Genesis 2:21-24 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.
The Doctrine of Man

Verses:

Colossians 3:18-21 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged

1st Peter 4:10-11 God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 4:23-24 to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, the one created according to God’s likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth.
The Doctrine of Man

Verses:
Colossians 1:17 He is before all things, and by him all things hold together.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

John 3:19 This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

1st John 4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
The Doctrine of Man

Verses:
Psalm 51:5 Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is more deceitful than anything else, and incurable—who can understand it?

Genesis 6:5 When the LORD saw that human wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time,

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don’t do what you want.

Psalms 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

Titus 1:15-16 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.
The Doctrine of Man

Verses:

Romans 3:9-19 What then? Are we any better off? Not at all! For we have already charged that both Jews and Gentiles are all under sin, as it is written:

There is no one righteous, not even one.
There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.
All have turned away; all alike have become worthless.
There is no one who does what is good, not even one.
Their throat is an open grave; they deceive with their tongues. Vipers’ venom is under their lips.
Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.
Their feet are swift to shed blood;
ruin and wretchedness are in their paths,
and the path of peace they have not known.
There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are subject to the law, so that every mouth may be shut and the whole world may become subject to God’s judgment.