



The Truth Project Study Aid  
Harbor of Grace Church Winter 2021

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**Week Three Study Aid – Anthropology (The Study of Man)**

Let's recap:

Man is basically good. There is no foundation for ethics, and there is no such thing as free will. Man is a product of the stuff inside the box. There is no supernatural world, only the material stuff inside the box. There is no ultimate meaning or purpose to life and we really don't have a good reason to mourn the death of a child any more than the death of a rat.

This is what the world believes and it has a direct impact on how the world sees mankind. If all we are is a product of blind and random chance, matter doing its cause-and-effect dance as we drag on our bellies as far as we can before we die and the universe dies a heat death, then it really doesn't matter how we live in the here and now. There is no such thing as objective evil, and therefore murder, abortion and suicide are all acceptable actions of man. But we know that evil actually exists, and the problem of evil is a common objection to theism. Because God is the ultimate standard for what is good, we can know that what is evil is contrary to Him. Good is an absolute moral property, while evil is only a relative moral property. By the standard of good we recognize evil, not that we need evil to have that which is good. Therefore, to even say that anything is evil we are assuming there is a good, a standard by which it is found wanting. Evil is a perversion, not an autonomous thing itself.

Ultimately, where we have a false view of man, we have a false view of God. Why? Because we are made in the image of and reflect the image of God. We are rational and moral creatures. We are both immaterial rational souls and physical bodies fearfully and wonderfully created by God. How we live now matters because we will live forever. Either in heaven or in hell. As C.S. Lewis said, "You have never met a mere mortal."

Consider the following statements and write an **S** (Secular) or a **C** (Christian) in the blanks below.

**Secular Worldview or Christian Worldview Concerning Man:**

- *Man is basically good* \_\_
- *Man has intrinsic worth* \_\_
- *Life has no meaning or purpose* \_\_
- *Man needs grace and regeneration* \_\_
- *Man was not created but evolved* \_\_
- *Human life is sacred above all others* \_\_
- *To understand God, we must understand man* \_\_
- *Man will live forever* \_\_
- *Man is only made evil through society* \_\_
- *Self-actualization is the true goal of man* \_\_

I pray that we see clearly the biblical truth that man is made in the wonderful image of God. May we see that what we believe about man has an impact on how we treat ourselves and other humans. It has an impact on how we operate as a society. And it directly impacts our understanding of our purpose, meaning and destiny. We are made in the image of God, and though fallen, have been redeemed by grace through faith, and made alive in Christ to live lives of obedience to Him (Eph. 2:1-10). As the Westminster Catechisms says, "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." Amen.

-Pastor Rob Lewis