

A BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION:
Man Made in the Image of God: Male & Female
Luke 10:25-37; Genesis 1:26-31

INTRODUCTION: There are three central elements to any worldview:

1. **Creation:** *Where did we come from, and who are we?* This is addressed in Gen.1-2.
2. **Fall:** *What has gone wrong with the world?* This is addressed in Genesis 3.
3. **Redemption:** *What can be done to fix the world?* The answer to this begins in Genesis 3:15 and is developed throughout the rest of the Old Testament.

I. A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW SAYS THAT HUMANITY IS MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD (Gen.1:26,27; 5:1; 9:6; 1 Cor.11:7; Eph.4:24; Col.3:10; James 3:9; cf. Rom.8:29; 12:2; 2 Cor.3:18; 4:4; Col.1:15)

A. “Let Us make man in Our image...” (Gen.1:26,27)

B. In its most basic sense, being made in the Image of God is being created in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness (Eph.4:24; Col.3:10; Q.10 of the S.C.).

II. A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW IS FOUNDATIONAL FOR BELIEF IN HUMAN DIGNITY

A. Why should all people be treated with dignity?

B. Man’s dignity is such that to murder another human being is worthy of death (Gen.9:5,6).

C. God does not base His valuation of mankind on their strength, age, or nationality. A person’s net worth has nothing to do with his wealth, intelligence, ancestral lineage, education, or political power. God's valuation of a person is based on His worth! God’s valuation of all men is that we have been made in God’s image.

1. Christians are against abortion because unborn children are made in the image of God (Gen.1:26,27 with Psalm 139:13-16).

2. What’s wrong with the slogan, “Every child a wanted child?”

- a. Every German a wanted German.
- b. Every Pole a wanted Pole.
- c. Every African a wanted African.
- d. Every Jew a wanted Jew.
- e. Every Muslim a wanted Muslim.
- f. Every Christian a wanted Christian.

III. A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW EXPOSES THE ABSURDITY OF THE ANIMAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

IV. A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW IS FOUNDATIONAL FOR UNDERSTANDING THE EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

- A. “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Gen.1:27).
- B. Outside of the Bible, where else are you going to find equality between men and women?
1. Hinduism sees women as being lower than men on the totem pole of reincarnation.
 2. Islam teaches that men stand superior to women (Sura 4:38). Mohammad was not a prophet – he was a pedophile.
 3. Radical feminism undermines the basis for women’s rights. It doesn’t have any absolute basis for believing in the equality of women.
- C. “The birth of Jesus was the turning point in the history of woman.”
1. Jesus talked with a Samaritan woman (John 4)
 2. Jesus taught women (Luke 10:38-42)
 3. Jesus taught Martha that He was the resurrection and the life (John 11:25,26)
 4. Women helped financially support the ministry of Jesus (Luke 8:1-3)
 5. After His resurrection, Jesus first appeared to women (Mt.28:9,10; Mark 16:9; John 20:11-18)
 6. Deacons caring for widows (Acts 6:1-6)
 7. Provision for widows in 1 Timothy 5

V. WE LIVE IN A WORLD THAT GROANS BECAUSE OF MANKIND’S REBELLION AND SIN. ONLY JESUS CHRIST AND THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL CAN SAVE US.

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer for yourself, your family, the church and/or your nation. Remember that prayer consists in Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (Feel free to use the outline for praying).

What is a worldview?

What are the three central elements of a worldview?

What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

Why is the biblical worldview foundational for belief in human dignity?

Do non-Christians have any ultimate foundation for believing in the value, worth, and equality of other human beings?

What is fundamentally wrong with the animals rights movement?

Why should Christians be better feminists than the most radical feminists?

How was the birth of Jesus the turning point in the history of women?

ILLUSTRATION

01/30/02

Codes and Cut Flowers

Ravi Zacharias

The cover story of a recent issue of Newsweek was titled “The Race to Decode the Human Genome.” As might be expected, scientists of various stripes weighed in on the issue, and one Harvard biologist observed that once we know the entire code for the human body we will know “what it is to be human.” I would like to ask the biologist if he would be able to appreciate a work of art by knowing all the molecules that comprise the paint and canvas. Certainly human life is much more than genes, just as a masterpiece is much more than the ingredients of the paint.

One dare not miss the underlying sentiment of the biologist. Where is the intrinsic value, the reverence, the awe at human life and its infinite worth? I certainly have no quarrel with discovering all that we can about what God has created, yet I am well aware that in our time, the Creator of life is not acknowledged. From the playground to the academy our youth are taught that we just happen to be here, clothed apes, a blip on the radar screen of time, a cosmic accident. The consequences of this worldview are dire, as our schools and streets are riddled with senseless violence. After all, though the academic may hide behind lofty platitudes, it does not take the student on the street very long to figure out what Dostoevsky observed: If there is no God, anything is permissible.

Yet to the theist, the awe and wonder of human life is engendered by its Maker. Our existence is by the designed will of our heavenly Father who is ever in control of the universe. Each of us is here at this specific time within the compass of His sovereign will, loved by Him, accountable to Him, owing our very lives to Him. This is the fundamental difference that separates a secular view from a spiritual one.

May I close with a prophetic commentary, written by Elton Trueblood over a half-century ago? Here’s what he said:

The terrible danger of our time consists in the fact that ours is a cut-flower civilization. Beautiful as cut flowers may be, and much as we may use our ingenuity to keep them looking fresh for a while, they will eventually die because they are severed from their sustaining roots. We are trying to maintain the dignity of the individual apart from the deep confidence that every person is made in God’s image and is therefore of worth that transcends matter.

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