The Creation of Man

Lesson for Sunday, April 3, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

* In our series, we have been looking at the first chapters of Genesis and seeing how God’s Word sufficiently answers the big questions of life.
  + Where did everything come from? God’s Word clearly answers this question in the first two chapters.
* Today we are looking at one of the most important questions facing our world today: What does it mean to be human? Every worldview has to answer this question.
  + The Naturalist (atheist, agnostic, secularist, materialist, etc.) teaches that humanity is merely the product of blind, accidental and purely natural processes.
  + The Theist (Judaism, Islam, Christianity) believes that mankind was created by God.
  + Biblical Christianity takes the Theist view and expounds upon it with the clear teaching of the Bible.
* Why is this important? Understanding the creation of man is critical to understanding our purpose.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The Creation of Man (Genesis 2:7)
   1. Just like God is a Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), man is a trinity (body, soul, spirit). Think of it like a house with three rooms.
   2. First, notice man’s body.
      1. God made man from the elements of the earth (“dust of the ground”).
      2. The Bible teaches that man came from dust and man’s body shall return to dust (Genesis 3:19).
      3. The interesting point: We can take all the ingredients to “make a man,” but only God can actually do it (Psalm 139:14).
      4. With our bodies, we gain world consciousness. We become aware of, and participate in, the physical world around us.
   3. Second, notice man’s soul.
      1. Our text comments that “man became a living soul.”
      2. The Hebrew word is “nephesh” which means life. In Greek the word is “psyche” where we get our word psychology.
      3. The soul gives life and personality, imagination and conscience.
      4. The soul gives self- consciousness.
   4. Third, notice man’s spirit.
      1. In our text, the word for “breath” is also translated “wind or spirit.”
      2. There is a relationship between the soul and the spirit of an individual. While they are different and should be distinguished, they are always connected and can never be separated.
      3. The spirit gives us God-consciousness. It is the heart of our spiritual life.
   5. All three parts of man help us understand what it means to be human. They cannot be disconnected. What one does with their body impacts their soul and spirit (think of sexual sin).

1. Created in God’s Image (Genesis 1:26-27)
   1. When it comes to defining what it means to be human, the image of God is the primary fact that separates mankind from all other living things.
   2. What does it mean that we are created this way? Here is a brief description:
      1. Personhood (Personality): Distinct, not clones or exact replicas.
      2. Capable of Relationships with God and others.
      3. Ability to Communicate: to speak languages; write, think in symbols.
      4. Conscience: A moral awareness (man is only creature that can blush).
      5. Appreciation of Beauty and Order: art, music, the world around us.
      6. Worship: The ability to relate to God.
      7. Immortality: Ever-living, never-dying, endless, dateless, timeless, eternal.
   3. This is a topic that we could teach a series of lessons on. What are the implications of being created in God’s image? It actually touches the vast majority of social issues we are facing.
2. The Difference Understanding Man Makes (IDEA: GROUP WORK)
   1. Racism: Why is racism a sin? Because of the image of God.
      1. Every person you ever see is created by God and in His image. This gives each life dignity and value.
      2. To mistreat another human based on their appearance is a sin against God’s image that is stamped on their person.
   2. Life Issues (abortion/euthanasia): Why is wrong to take human life?
      1. Because of God’s image, every life has equal value – born and unborn.
      2. This also includes human life that may be handicapped or diseased.
      3. All life is valuable.
   3. Pornography: How does the image of God impact our position against porn?
      1. When someone participates in porn, they are abusing the God-given purpose of their body.
      2. When someone watches, they are watching image bearers of God and taking advantage of them.
      3. Whether participating or watching - both are wrong.
   4. Gender Identity:
      1. If we are created by a holy, perfect God – who makes no mistakes – our gender is chosen by Him. Our gender is a gift from God.
      2. To think or attempt about changing one’s gender is to accuse God of making a mistake in His creation.
   5. Addiction (drugs/alcohol):
      1. Our bodies are a critical part of who we are. Drugs and alcohol damage the body and are not the way God intended us to steward the life He has given us.

These are just a few examples of the difference that a biblical worldview can make in one’s thinking and life. Your Bible is as relevant as the front page of the newspaper. It addresses the questions of the ages, as well as the issues of the day.