

## Nature of Man

### I. The Nature of Man

#### A. The origin of the Soul

1. Man's creation occurs as the last major event on the sixth day of the creation week, as the climax of God's activity. Clearly, God intended all that He had done prior to man's creation to be preparatory to the creation of man.
2. It is man alone who is described as having been created in the image of God (Gen 1:26-27).
3. The creation of man receives special attention in Genesis 2:5-25 which is not a "second account" of creation differing in many details from the account in Genesis 1, but a more detailed account of God's creative activities on day six of Genesis 1. Genesis 1 as it were gives an overview of the creation week as a whole, and then concentrates in Genesis 2 on the creation of man.
4. Man is distinguished from the animals in a different way in Genesis 2, and man is to be the ruler over the animals.
5. Man is under God and is not to be compared with God. Man is made in the image after the likeness of God.
6. Man is to reflect God's Dominion

#### B. Image of God

1. God made the human in God's own image and likeness, which distinguishes people from all the other creatures, for only humans, is this expression used.
2. A key verse that speaks on the image of God is Genesis 1:26-27 as quoted from the New International Version "Then God said, Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

#### C. Trichotomy

1. The term that signifies a division of man into three parts, which are the body, the soul and the spirit. 1 Thes 5:23 is one passage that teaches this.
2. *1 Thes 5:23 (NKJV)- Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
3. The meaning of the word Soul- This refers to a self-conscious individual, the innermost being, the self, the life, or the person.
4. The meaning of the word Spirit- The spirit of man is immaterial and describes it as being spirit rather than physical.

#### D. Dichotomy

1. The human is composed of two elements being the body and the soul.
2. Some verses that teach this are Luke 1:46-47, Matt 6:25, 1 Corinthians 5:3

## Doctrinal Statement

- An intelligent and Personal Creator created man in His own image on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of creation, making man the last major creation.
  - I reject any liberal theology that denies that man was created on the 6<sup>th</sup> day.
  - I reject any liberal theology that denies that man was created in the image of God
- Some scriptures that teach about the image of God are as follows (Gen 1:26-27, Gen 5:1, Gen 9:6, James 3:9, 1 Corinthians 11:7).

**Gen 1:26-** And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

**James 3:9-** Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

I believe that interpretation of what the image of God is will be different for different people from different theological backgrounds. But I believe that biblically personal relationships and small group interaction should be emphasized in any church.

- I believe that man is distinguished from the animals and man should have dominion over them (Gen 2).
- I believe that God gave man the animals so that he can eat them.
- I believe that man is under God and cannot be compared with God.
  - I reject the teachings of Mormonism that teach that man can become like God
  - I reject any teachings taught from any other cult that teach that sinful man is not really sinful, and can become like God.

I believe that when man was created he was created into three parts and that being the body, the soul and the spirit. I believe that this doctrine is called **Trichometry** and I believe that 1 Thes 5:23 teaches this.

**1 Thes 5:23 (NKJV)-** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- I believe that the word Soul can be defined as a self-conscious individual or the innermost being, the self, the life, or the person.
- I believe that the meaning of the word Spirit is that the spirit of man is immaterial and describes it as being spirit rather than physical.
- I believe that the word Body can be defined as the lowest part of a man as a triune being, in which his soul and spirit reside. In the redeemed man the Holy Spirit dwells (1 Cor 6:19; 2 Pet 1:13-14), and his body is said to be peculiarly God's property (1 Cor 6:20).

After a thoroughly examination of the scriptures I believe that the **Dichotomist** position is not supported biblically as well defined as the Trichometist position.

**Bibliography:** **Reymond**, *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*, 416-418, **Williams**, *Renewal Theology*, 200, **Elwell**, EDT, 1218, **Forlines**, *The Quest for Truth*, 150-151, **Grudem**, *Systematic Theology*, 477-479, **Erickson**, Chapter 24,25, **Unger**, NUBD, (Body)