

Systematic Theology 1, Creation, Part 2 (Creation of Man) 1/29/23

Q: Is it appropriate and wise to refer to the creation of “MAN” when speaking of the human race as opposed to using gender neutral terms such as “persons, humanity, human beings, or humankind”?

Gen. 5:1-2 *This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. ² Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and **named them Man** when they were created.*

Sometimes, the Bible uses the term “man” in distinction from woman, as in Gen. 2:22 and 25. In Gen. 5:2, however, the Lord NAMES both male and female “MAN”.

Q: What are some of the features that distinguish the creation of man from the creation of everything else?

1. Man’s creation is the final, climactic act of creation, the last creative event on the sixth day of the creation week. Gen. 1:23-27
2. Up to the creation of man, the divine spoken formula is, “LET THERE BE...” With man, the Lord does not say, “Let there be man”; rather, he says, “Let us make man”. Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:7, 21-22; Ps. 139:13-15
3. Man alone is described as being made “*in our image, after our likeness*”.
4. Man alone is given dominion over the rest of God’s created works on earth. This point is emphasized in both the creation accounts of Gen. 1 & 2, and also in later Scriptures’ commentary on the uniqueness of man in God’s creation. Gen. 1:26-28; Gen. 2:19-20; Ps. 8
5. Only the creation of man is given special attention in Gen. 2, which provides a more detailed account of the Lord’s creative activity on the 6th day, activity which climaxed in the creation of man and woman. Gen. 2:5-9, 15, 18, 20-22
 - 1) The field or ground was incomplete without man.
 - 2) The man was incomplete without woman.

At creation, the woman was made for the man in a way that the man was not made for the woman. The NT reflects upon that reality in speaking of proper behavior for women in the church. 1Co 11:7-10

NOTE: While Gen. 2 points to distinctions between male and female, the Bible makes it clear that there is an equality of males and females in being the image of God and in significance.

Gen. 1:27; 5:1-2; Gal. 3:27-28

6. Only in the creation of man does God “*breathe into his nostrils the breath of life*” (2:7).
 - 1) Man has a spirit, not simply of animation, but of understanding. He has a capacity to reason and think logically. He is philosophical, seeking to understand things. It is this non-material dimension, the soul or spirit, in which God’s people experience fellowship with their Maker, who is spirit. Job 32:8; John 20:21-22
 - 2) Man has a conscience, a moral sense of right and wrong. The fall injured the conscience but did not remove it. Rom. 2:14-15
 - 3) Man has a non-material soul or spirit that, unlike his body, cannot be killed. That soul, once created, exists forever in heaven or hell. Matt. 10:28

NOTE: The Bible speaks of man’s soul and man’s spirit. These are not two distinct entities but simply two words that each describe the same thing. John 12:27, with 13:21; Luke 1:46-47

7. Only in the creation of man is the creature able to speak words and understand words.
Gen. 2:16-23
8. While God’s creation of man was deeply marred by man’s fall, man is still the image of God, and redemption renews that image.
 - 1) Image is marred but still present- Gen. 9:6; James 3:9
 - 2) Image is being renewed through regeneration and sanctification- Eph. 4:21-24; Col. 3:10
 - 3) Image will be totally restored, on a higher level, in glorification. 1Co 15:47-49; Rom. 8:28-30

1689:4:2 *After God had made all the other creatures, he created humanity. He made them male and female,⁴ with rational and immortal souls,⁵ thereby making them suited to that life lived unto God for which they were created. They were made in the image of God, being endowed with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness.⁶ They had the law of God written in their hearts⁷ and the power to fulfill it. Even so, they could still transgress the law, because they were left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject to change.⁸ ⁴ Genesis 1:27. ⁵ Genesis 2:7. ⁶ Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 1:26. ⁷ Romans 2:14, 15. ⁸ Genesis 3:6.*