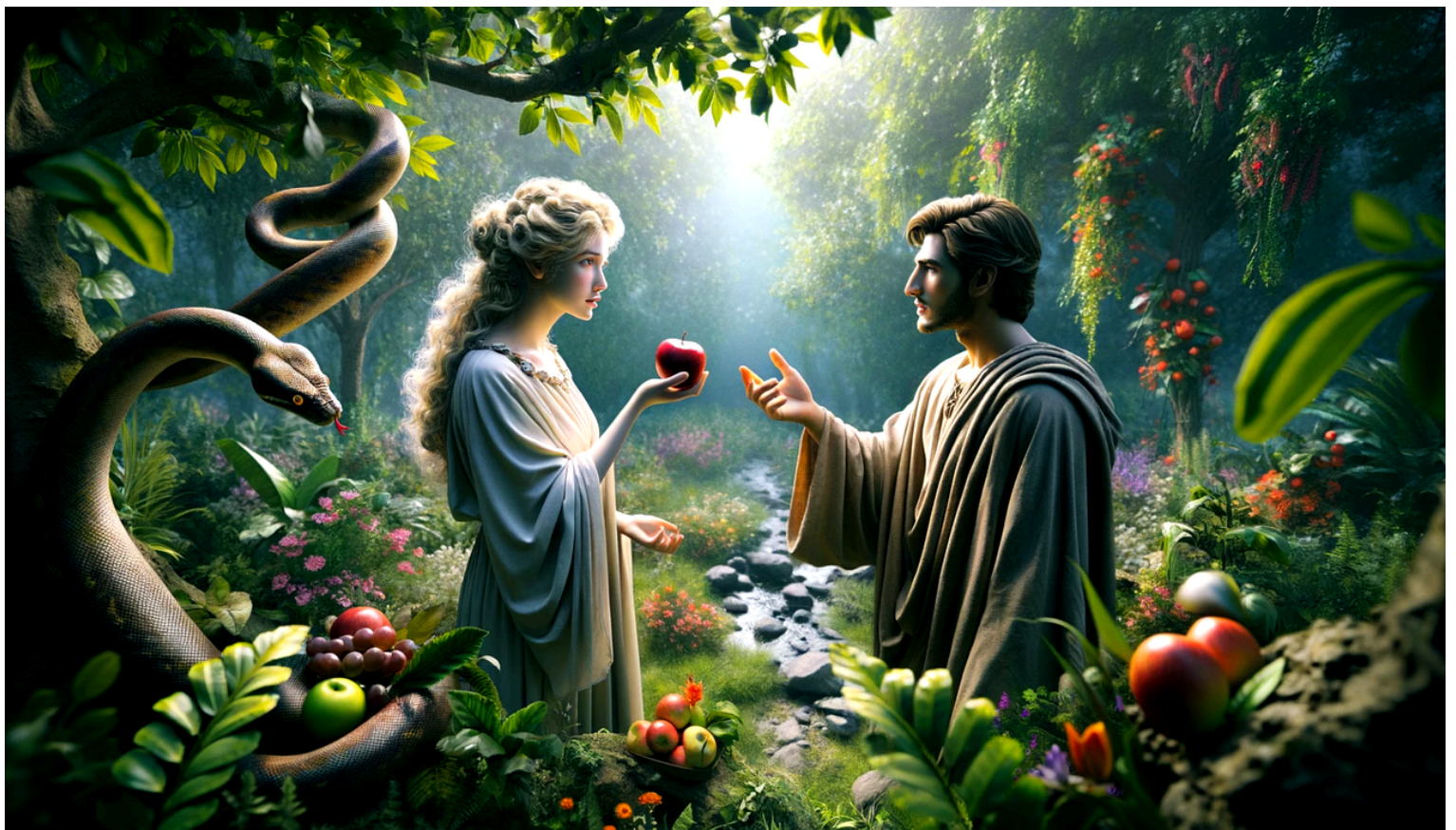


The Doctrine of Man - Part 1

Title: His Origin



Introduction to the Doctrine of Man

1. Why is the study of the doctrine of man so important?
Millard Erickson answers this question:

1. The doctrine of man is important because of its relationship to other major Christian doctrines. Man is the highest of God's earthly creatures. Thus, the study of man brings to completion our understanding of God's work and, in a sense, of God himself, since we do learn something about the Creator by seeing what he has created. ...

The doctrine of man sheds great light also upon our **understanding of the person of Christ**, since the Bible teaches that the Second Person of the Trinity took on human nature.

This means that extraordinary care must be taken to formulate correctly our understanding of man.

The conclusions reached here will affect, if not determine, our conclusions in other areas of doctrine. ...

2. The doctrine of man is important because it is a point where the biblical revelation and human concerns converge.

Theology is here treating an object that everyone (or at least virtually everyone) admits exists. ...

This means that the subject of man is a starting point for dialogue. ... [M]odern man is concerned about himself, what is happening to him, where he is going. ...

Thus, while the conversation will not end with man, it is an apt place for it to begin.

3. The doctrine of man is particularly significant in our day because of the large amount of attention given to man by the various intellectual disciplines. ...



There is a heightened interest in human problems.

Ethical issues dominate discussions, particularly among the young. ...

4. The doctrine of man is important because of the present crisis in man's self-understanding.

Not only is there a great interest in the question "What is man?"

There is also great confusion regarding the answer, for various recent events and developments cast doubt on many of the answers which have been given to the question.

One development is the struggle of young people to discover who they are. ...

This has always been a part of growing up. ...

Who am I?

What is life?

Where is the world going?

These are questions which mark the crises faced by many young people and some older ones as well. ...

5. The doctrine of man is important because it affects how we minister.

Our conception of human beings and their destiny will greatly affect how we deal with them and what we seek to do for them.

(Millard Erickson, Christian Theology, vol. 2, pp. 456-462)

2. What five questions does every person ask himself?

A. Origin: Where did we come from?

We are created beings, wonderfully made in the image and likeness of God **(Gen 1:27; Ps 139:14)**.

Gen 1:27 KJV:

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Ps 139:14 KJV:

14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made:
marvellous are thy works;
and that my soul knoweth right well.

B. Identity: Who are we?

Since we are made in the image and likeness of God, we are creatures of supreme worth. We are loved by God and endowed with certain God-given rights and responsibilities.

John 1:12 KJV:

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 3:16-18 KJV:

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Gal 4:5 KJV:

5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.



C. Meaning: Why are we here?

This temporal life is the choosing ground for the eternal one.

Choices we can make that will bring glory to God (**Isa 43:7; John 15:8**), and may bring us eternal rewards, include:

Isa 43:7 KJV:

7 Even every one that is called by my name:
for I have created him for my glory,
I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

John 15:8 KJV:

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

1. Accepting the ransom Jesus paid in order to free us from eternal punishment and welcome us into his eternal presence (Mark 10:45; Luke 16:9; John 14:2; 1 Tim 2:6; Heb 9:15).

Mark 10:45 KJV:

45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Luke 16:9 NIV:

9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

John 14:2 KJV:

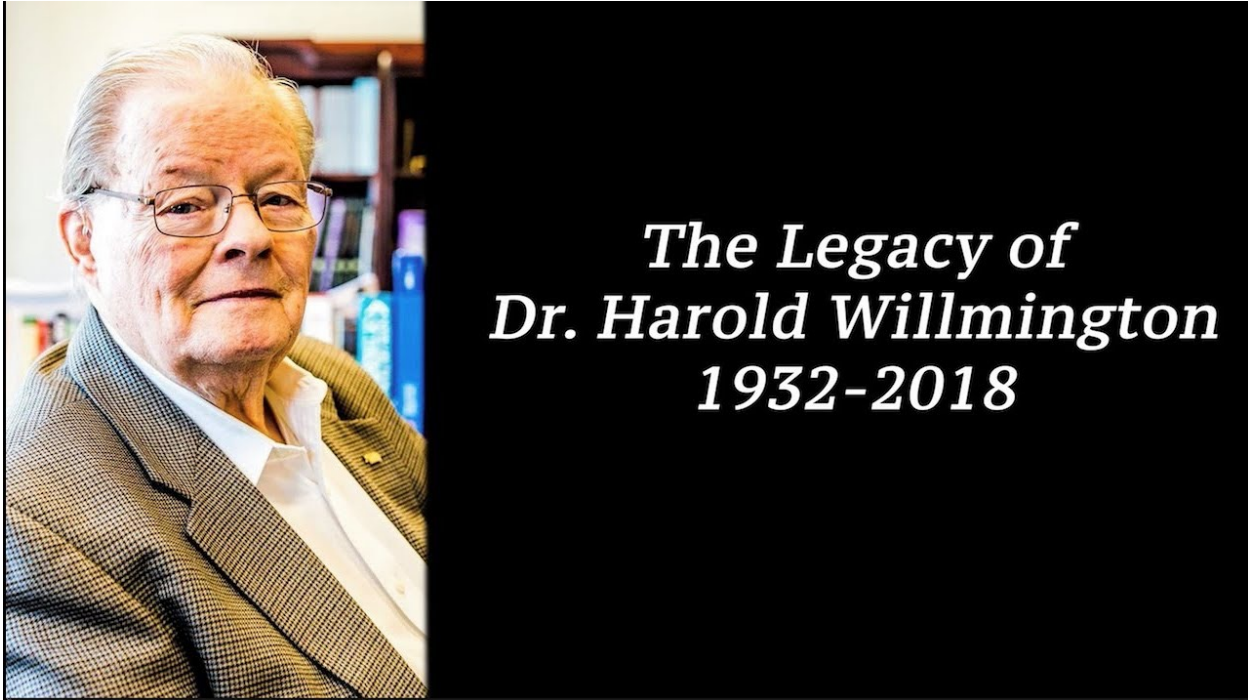
2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

1 Tim. 2:6 KJV:

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Heb. 9:15 KJV:

15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.



2. Serving as ambassadors for Christ to help others make that same choice (**Matt 28:19; 2 Cor 5:17-21**).

Matt 28:19 KJV:

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

2 Cor. 5:17-21 KJV:

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.



3. Learning from our own sufferings to comfort others who suffer (**2 Cor 1:3-4**), and realizing that our sufferings enhance our own capacity to enjoy eternity (**2-5:1; 2 Pet 1:5-11**).

2 Cor. 1:3-4 KJV:

3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God

2 Cor. 5:1 KJV:

1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Pet. 1:5-11 NLT:

5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge,

6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness,

7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.

8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.

10 So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away.

11 Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

D. Morality: How should we live?



Since God first loved us, we should love him and others -
(Rom 5:8; 1Jn 4:19-21).

Rom 5:8 NLT:

8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

1Jn 4:19-21 NLT:

19 We love each other because he loved us first.

20 If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?

21 And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

In fact, the “whole duty of man” is to “fear God and keep his commandments” **(Eccl 12:13-14).**

Eccl 12:13-14 NLT:

13 That’s the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone’s duty.

14 God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

This includes making disciples of all nations (**Matt 28:19**) and enjoying the good things God gives us (**1 Tim 6:17**).

Matt 28:19 NLT:

19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

1 Tim 6:17 NLT:

17 Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.



E. Destiny: Where are we going?

God's infinite justice demands that he punish our sins, but because of his infinite love, he has taken the punishment on himself (**Isa 53:4, 10, 12; Rom 3:26; 1 Pet 2:24**).

Isa 53:4 NLT:

4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried;
it was our sorrows that weighed him down.
And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God,
a punishment for his own sins!

Isa 53:10 NLT:

10 But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him
and cause him grief.
Yet when his life is made an offering for sin,
he will have many descendants.
He will enjoy a long life,
and the LORD's good plan will prosper in his hands.

Isa 53:12 NLT:

12 I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier,
because he exposed himself to death.
He was counted among the rebels.
He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.

Rom 3:26 NLT:

26 for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

1 Pet 2:24 NLT:

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.



This is the only way he could remain just and still justify sinners
(John 14:6; Rom 3:26).

John 14:6 NLT:

**6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

Rom 3:26 NLT:

26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

His gift of salvation from eternal punishment is free to all the world
(John 3:16; Eph 2:8-9; Rev 22:17).

John 3:16 NLT:

**16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not
perish, but have everlasting life.**

Eph 2:8-9 NLT:

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Rev 22:17 NLT: And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.



It cannot be earned through good works or any kind of merit.

And God wants everyone to be saved from the eternal punishment we all deserve (**1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9**).

1 Tim 2:4 NLT:

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

2 Pet 3:9 NLT:

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But since he cannot force us to love him (forced love is a contradiction), each one of us must choose for ourselves whom we will serve (**Josh 24:15; John 3:18**).

Josh 24:15 NLT:

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

John 3:18 NLT:

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

(Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*, Wheaton, IL: Crossway, pp. 383-384)



How do we obtain the Forgiveness of our Sins?



How do we get right with God, regardless of our individual sins?

Just say this Prayer and all of your sins will be forgotten, and you will have Eternal life, with Christ Jesus, in Heaven:

Lord Jesus, I repent of all my sins, and I ask you to come into my life and be my Lord and Savior.

Friends, if you prayed that prayer, I believe that you are born again, and you have everlasting life, get in a good bible teaching church, and may you keep growing, in the Lord, and may HE use you to help save many souls for His Kingdom !

In, Jesus Mighty Name!

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed

How do I ask Jesus to come into my life?



How do we get right with God, regardless of my sins?

Lord Jesus, I ask You to please come into my life, and to forgive me of all my sins, and I ask You to become my Lord and Savior, from this day forward.

Friends, if you prayed that prayer, I believe that you are born again, and that you have been made a new creation in Christ Jesus, and that ALL of your sins have been forgiven, and that you have Eternal life with our father in Heaven.

For Jesus Says to all of us: Jn.14:6 NIV:

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

I encourage You, to get in a good bible teaching church, so that you may grow in Christ Jesus, so that HE may use you to preach and teach, the Good News!

In, Jesus Mighty Name!

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed