

LESSON 5: October 15: The Doctrine of Man Part 2

1. The THREE STATES OF MAN

STATE OF MAN

man's essence:
man's moral state:
man's need:

THE BIBLE

made in God's image
fallen nature/sinful
redemption

OUR CULTURE

nothing special, on same level as animals
not good or bad, no free will means no sin
perfect yourself, actualize yourself

Scripture represents man as existing in several different "states," all of which continue to play a role in his present nature and identity: created innocent; fallen through rebellion and disobedience, evil flows directly from man's decision to reject the truth of God and embrace Satan's lie.; dead in trespasses and sins; total depravity (the darker side of human nature), redeemed by grace through faith; glorified by identification with Christ.

2. STATE #1: ESSENCE, IMAGO DEO, Made in God's image.

Dualistic: Christianity asserts that man is both body and soul (mind, emotions, will and spirit).

Monistic: Humanistic and naturalistic view of man that man is simply material, made of one substance, and has no spiritual dimension. Man was not created but has evolved and is a product of chance. In religion monism is the view that all reality is one, such as in certain forms of Hinduism.

Imago Deo: Personhood, identity, physical resemblance, moral capacity, immortal Spirit.

3. THE CULTURAL LIE: the battle over ESSENCE.

"The nonreality of the supernatural means, on the human level, that men do not possess supernatural and immortal souls." Corliss Lamont in Humanism and Philosophy.

Remember Dr. Provine says: no gods or purposive forces no free will (just a cause and effect machine), no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning in life, no life after death.

"Using the powerful critical tools of science and logical analysis, modern man now recognizes that the universe has no special human meaning or purpose and that man is not a special product of creation."
Dr Paul Kurtz in The Humanist Alternative.

"A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy."

Ingrid Newkirk (president of People for the ethical treatment of Animals) in the book Save The Animals.

Activist, Pentti Linkola of the Finnish Green Party says he has more sympathy for threatened insect species than for children dying of hunger in Africa.— quoted in Josh McDowell in The New Tolerance

"While the death of young men in war is unfortunate, it is no more serious than the touching of mountains and wilderness by humankind." David Brown, former head of the Sierra Club.

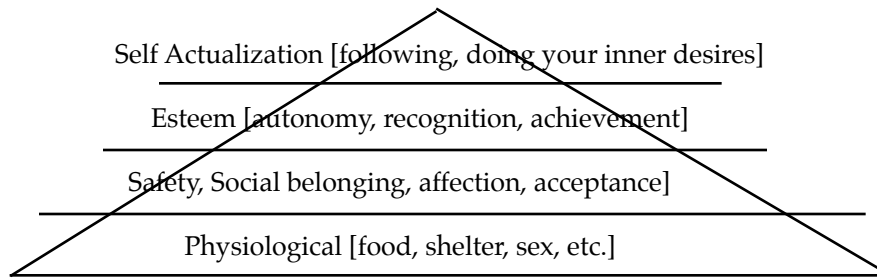
"If man is a product of evolution, one species among others, in a universe without purpose, then man's option is to live for himself." Paul Kurtz:

"The purpose of man is like the the purpose of the pollywog -- to wiggle along as far as he can without dying; or, to hang to life until death takes him." Clarence Darrow

4. THE CULTURAL LIE: the battle over MAN'S MORAL STATE AND HIS NEED

"I do not find that evil is inherent in human nature." Carl Rogers

"As far as I know we just don't have any intrinsic instincts for evil." Abraham Maslow



"Since this inner nature is good or neutral rather than bad, it is best to bring it out and to encourage it rather than to suppress it. If it is permitted to guide our life, we grow healthy, fruitful, and happy." Abraham Maslow

READ Col 3:5-10

5. What is the enemy of self-actualization?

6. If evil is not inherent in man, then where does evil come from?

(Christians say that evil flows directly from man's decision to reject the truth of God and embrace a lie. Satan is the father of lies.)

"If man is good by nature, as I believe to have shown him to be, it then follows that he stays like that as long as nothing foreign to him corrupts him." Rousseau 1712-1778

"Man was born free but everywhere he is in chains." Rousseau
(cited in Francis Schaeffer's *How Then Shall We Live?*)

READ Psalm 107: 10-11

"Sick people are made by a sick culture; healthy people are made by a healthy culture." A. Maslow

"...experience leads me to believe that it is cultural influences which are the major factor in our evil behaviors." Carl Rogers

7 REVIEW: The Cosmic Battle: Who is man? The Truth Claims

The Bible

Imago Deo (Dualistic)

Fallen man, rebelled against God,
his heart is desperately wicked

Divine Grace, Regeneration
Redemption

Naturalism/Humanism

A product of mindless, purposeless forces (Monistic)

Man is basically good
Get in touch with your instincts

Save yourself with self-oriented pursuits