

## LESSON 6: October 22: The Doctrine of Man, Part 3

Introduction:

Anything in the news or readings about Worldview?

PLAY SONG: What's it all about Alfie? Hal David and Burt Bacharach composed this simple song sung by Dionne Warwick and became a hit movie in the 60's.

Alfie. -----Joss Stone  
What's it all about, Alfie?  
Is it just for the moment we live?  
What's it all about when you sort it out, Alfie?  
Are we meant to take more than we give  
Or are we meant to be kind?  
And if only fools are kind, Alfie,  
Then I guess it's wise to be cruel.  
And if life belongs only to the strong, Alfie,  
What will you lend on an old golden rule?  
As sure as I believe there's a heaven above, Alfie,  
I know there's something much more,  
Something even non-believers can believe in.

I believe in love, Alfie.  
Without true love we just exist, Alfie.  
Until you find the love you've missed you're nothing, Alfie.  
When you walk let your heart lead the way  
And you'll find love any day, Alfie, Alfie  
would you tell me what's it all about?  
what's it all about? Alfie, Alfie, Alfie.  
What's it all about? Whats this all about?  
what's it all about Alfie? tell me  
what's it all about Alfie? what's it all about Alfie?  
just tell me yeah. what's it all about?  
what's it all about?

SO WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? WHO IS MAN? Intrinsically good or bad? What kind of love are we talking about?

PLAY VIDEO CLIP ON EVIL

1. What is evil?

The dictionary: Dictionary defines evil as morally bad or wicked. Synonymous with sinful &

immoral.

The Bible: Christians say that evil flows directly from man's decision to reject the truth of God and embrace a lie. ANY OTHER IDEAS?

Where does evil come from? Man's heart. Satan. God does not do it, but allows it for now. The advent of Evil has to do with free will. Love involves free will. Jesus called Satan the evil one. Matt. 13:38-39 "The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil." Jesus taught us to pray: "deliver us from evil or the evil one. At the last judgment, Satan will be destroyed. Matt. 25:41

Evil is the manifestation of sin or the wrong that happens to people. So we need to answer the question what is sin.

## 2. What is sin?

The dictionary: a transgression of a law having divine authority, especially when deliberate.

The Bible: Well the bible goes much deeper than that in defining sin. There are Sins of omission (what we should have done) and commission (deliberate or what we did).

But Sin involves more than the will.

People are sinners because they have gone contrary to the will of God. But sin goes deeper than the will. Sin is in the heart. The sinful deed expresses a still deeper sinfulness, our disposition, our natural state, or human nature. •Rom 3:10 "none are righteous, all have sinned." Self-actualization never happens. Total Depravity. ••Adam and Eve: the sin was not only in the eating, but in entertaining the thought, believing the lie. The sin entered them before it was done by them.

Revisit Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs: We now know that self-actualization is impossible because of sinful human nature. Biblical Christianity holds to a transcendent absolute moral truth that would stand against someone doing whatever they well please. Doing your inner desires has been disastrous lie.

Self Actualization [following, doing your inner desires]; Esteem [**autonomy, recognition, achievement**] Safety [**Social belonging, affection, acceptance**]; Physiological [**food, shelter, sex, etc.**]

What's wrong with this theory? At the top it's wrong, yes. But it's not that the needs are not real. It's the fact that they are in a heirarch mode and leaves out the truth of sin happening in these needs or desires. In other words, because of sin do we ever adequately meet these needs?

Man is capable of doing good and bad.

Matthew 7: 16 By their fruit you will recognise them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad

fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognise them.

**3. ETHICS: Here is where ethics comes into play?** What is right and what is wrong? Who makes the rules? Where do we find our values?

Plato: from Euthyphro, "Is an act right because God wills it (part of his character), or whether God wills it because he knows it is right (do as I say rather than do as I do)? Which is right? A or B.

What are our values? Why is lying wrong? Because it hurts others, hurts yourself, or because it is counter to God's very nature. Values express God's very nature. Who makes the rules? God or surveys? Moral absolutes or public opinion?

### **PLAY CLIP ON SPROUL**

**RC Sproul makes this point on ethics and morality. What is ethics? What is morality? Ethics is the ought, THE NORM OF BEHAVIOR and morality is, HOW THEY BEHAVE. THE GOOD IS DETERMINED BY WHAT IS the norm RATHER THAN WHAT OUGHT TO BE.**

Values are absolute or relative? If absolute they are God's very nature; so God is therefore we are; if relative, then we take surveys to discover what's in and what's out for today.

The social consequences of sin are especially emphasized in the prophets because of their realization of God's ethical character. In history, when the Hebrew nation was being formed, (I & II Kings), there were all kinds of excesses, excesses due chiefly to the failure of the people to see the difference between the character of their God, YAHWEH, and the numerous gods of their neighbors. The so-called non-writing prophets, Samuel, Elijah and Elisha- stood against these perversions, but few were listening. With Amos, one of the first of the writing prophets, the character of God was immensely exalted and with that came a corresponding ethical demand on the people. To ignore the demand was to come under God's retribution from which there was no escape.

For the priest sin was some ritualistic failure. Micah 6:6-8, for the prophet it was an ethical failure. 6 With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? 8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Jesus opposed the ceremonial law, i.e. no burden carried on the Sabbath, no healing on the

sabbath, etc.

The biblical teaching on sin is never isolated from forgiveness. EX 34:6. & 2 Co 11:31 repentance, confession, propitiation, reconciliation, redemption, transformation, sanctification, glorification.

#### 4. What did sin affect? How far has evil infected the world?

##### JOY TO THE WORLD stanza 3

**“No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, Far as the curse is found.”**

How far is the curse found? How far has sin grown?

Adam and Eve disobey God, feel shame, hide from God, finally tell their sin and .... While the wound of sin is fresh and before the scar forms, God says:

READ Genesis 3:14-19 NRSV

The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.” 16 To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” 17 And to the man he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

What is “cursed”? All because of sin.

1. The Devil, a power struggle with the offspring of Eve, Jesus
2. relationships, husband and wife power struggle. ALL relationships.
3. the ground or earth (nations, cultures, animals, work, the doing of it will be harder, The earth: Genesis 1:31 “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.” What had God done in 6 days? Very good means “perfection!”
4. our bodies, unto death, dust to dust. Is the body worthless, no; is the earth worthless, no. dust to dust, both need resurrection.

Now we know what's it all about?

What needs renewal, judgment, restoration, redemption? The end of the Book of Revelation answers that., a question of destiny. Jesus answers these questions with redemption.

## 5. God's Redeeming Work in Jesus.

"No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him." Rev 22: 3

### a. What will it take for the curse to be removed?

The cure for the curse of sin is the cross of Christ. "Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb" terrible price,

What does redemption mean? Buy back, set free, rescue, ransom.

It works BOTH ways: thru one man came sin (our moral state); thru one man came salvation (our need state).

**b. What needs redemption?** As far as the curse is found: people, nations, cultures, the earth, indeed, the universe.

13 For [God] has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fulness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. 21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. Colossians 1:13-23

The Greek word for "all things" is "ta panta." Extremely broad in scope. Peterson's The Message paraphrases verse 20: "... but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe - people and things, animals and atoms - get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross."

Christ redeems not only you and me, but all things, meaning every inch in the universe — ev-

ery sin, thorn, thistle, and atom. READ PAGE 106 Randy Alcorn's book, "Heaven"

This is also true in Romans 8 where Paul says that the whole creation is groaning like in the pains of childbirth.

**c. Why is our resurrection bodies a concern for all of creation?**

Gen 1:28 (Adam and Eve) and Gen. 9:1 (Noah) is the same command on our calling. So the original calling doesn't change! "Worship Him, serve Him, Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, rule over the creation."

But our original purpose is fulfilled in a greater sense: to live healthy, harmonious relationships with God and others and to be caretakers of the universe..

"The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies." Romans 8:19-23

JOHN CALVIN's interpretation of Romans 8:20.

THE SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS: Everything is deteriorating.

**d. Let's turn to the Cross of Christ and the atonement:**

"...because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:2

"If a man guilty of a capital offence is put to death and his body is hung on a tree, you must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse. You must not desecrate the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance." Deut. 21:22-23 Anything jump out at you in this passage? (Good stewardship of the land)

"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away." Isa 64:6

**"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree'." Gal 3:13**

"[Jesus] himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray,

but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” 1 Peter 2:24-25

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Co. 5:21 atonement, imputed righteousness

#### **e. God promised a Redeemer. Did the prophecy or the protevangelium come true?**

“I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.” Gen 22:18

Jacob gathered his sons and told them their future: For his son Judah he said:

“ The sceptre will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his”. Gen49:10

Nathan was told by God to tell King David:

“When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. 2 Sam. 7:12-13

The history of the prophets record many instances of the offspring of Judah who would be the Messiah. Isaiah prophesies that he will be a Suffering Servant.

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. 2 He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets.

3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; 4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope.” Isaiah 42:1-4 and others.

**Salvation restores us to our original purpose (living in a healthy ,harmonious relationship with God and others) and our original calling (worship him, serve him, be fruitful fill the earth and rule over it).**

#### **6. God’s Promise and OUR DESTINY When the curse is removed, what happens?**

##### **a. Satan destroyed**

Rev 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

**b. All deceivers and unrepentant sinners destroyed:**

Rev. 21:27 Nothing impure will ever enter it [new heaven and new earth], nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

**c. Bodies are resurrected and 2 judgments. Hell is a real place.**

11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

**d. Heaven and earth, the original is improved, therefore "new"**

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

**e. The Holy City is established:**

2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

**f. Communion with God restored:**

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

**g. Death and Sorrow is destroyed:**

4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21 NIV

[When we die, it isn't our real selves (spirit or soul) that goes to the present heaven while our useless old bodies go to the grave, good riddens forever. But when we die part of us goes to the present heaven while the body goes to the grave waiting our bodily resurrection that we read about at the end of time in Rev 21-22. Two Heavens.]

**h. All religions abolished, all nations restored, all cultures redeemed and blended**

22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

### **i. The Garden of Eden re-established and improved upon**

2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Eden re-established in the City, with the tree of life, 12 months to eat. What happened to the Garden of Eden? Still there. where? Where did God take his garden that he created in Chapter 2? Our ability to enter was destroyed, not eden; still a physical place, removed to a new realm, perhaps in the present heaven because Eden is Paradise (Persian word, cross was a persian invention), the thief, and Rev 2:7 is that the tree of life is in eden. eden not treated like the rest of the earth, no curse but remains a blessing.

<u>Gen. 1-2</u>	<u>Gen 3 to Rev 20</u>	<u>Rev 21-22</u>
no curse	living under the curse	curse removed
universal blessing	withdrawn & selective blessing	greater blessings
perfection	Predestination imperfection, common grace	deeper perfection
no shame	shame, excess guilt	no potential for shame
sin unknown	sin corrupts Jesus defeats the power and penalty of sin	sin removed forever grace unending
fertile earth	thorns and thistles	resurrected / restored / new earth, abundantly fertile

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NEXT WEEK: who is god?

Marriage and family is also created in the image of the Godhead.

Theologians have two words to describe the Trinity. Essential and Economic.

The Essential Trinity defined in the Westminster Confession is “three persons in the Godhead ... the same in substance, equal in power and glory.” The Economic Trinity is where members of the Godhead willingly submit themselves to the another in the work of redemption. The Son submits to the Father; The Holy Spirit submits to the Father and the Son.

Made in the image of God: The same is true in marriage and the family. The family is an essential trinity, all persons are children of God and equal in his sight. All are essential for a family. But the economic trinity in the family is an understanding of authority and it's proper use. Wives submit willing to their husbands and husbands love their wives and children obey both father and mother. So marriage before the Fall, when made in God's image, is patterned after the Divine Trinity.

**1973 decision of the Supreme Court** to permit abortion on demand also had the affect of taking away the rights of the father to protect his unborn child. This was followed in 1976 when the court struck down the Missouri laws and specifically denied the father any rights to protect the life of his child before birth.

Interestingly, Dr Bernard Nathanson, NY doctor published a book in the 1980's calling for a reversal of these court actions. Interesting because Nathanson was an ardent proponent of abortion on demands having performed himself over 75,000 of them. He had two reasons for his change of heart: 1. he changed his belief in the greatest good for the greatest number to one where every life is precious. and 2. he saw the breakdown in the family and society where the father has no responsibility. If the father has no rights in this matter, he has no responsibility in other social areas of relationships. The same is true for children, do parents have any rights over an unwed pregnant daughter. No the abortionist has direct access to the daughter. So, traditional Marriage, made in the image of the Godhead, has been changed in American society and the breakdown in the image and working of the basic family unit has had disastrous effects on our society.

