

BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT MAN, SIN, AND SALVATION

Lesson 4: Man's Constitution

This is the fourth of seven lessons on the Doctrine of Anthropology (Man). In this lesson we will look at the biblical teaching about man's constitution or makeup.

Lesson 4 – Central Truth Q and A

Question: What is man composed or made of?

Answer: God made man with both a physical body and an immaterial soul.

Lesson 4 – Memory Verses

Genesis 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

1 Thessalonians 5:23 *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Lesson 4 – Outline

1. God gave man a body.

Genesis 2:7 says God personally created Adam. Unlike the way God created everything else during creation week by speaking things into existence, God “formed” man out of the dust of the ground. God also made our bodies, as described by David:

Psalms 139:13-16 *For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.*

This text describes how God forms the body when it is still growing inside the mother's womb. God does this for all babies as they grow and develop inside their mothers. We can all say, “God made me.” God creates the human body with all the parts that make us look and function as we do. He makes us with outward parts and inward parts. Our bodies are “wonderfully made,” but because Adam sinned and brought God's curse upon all of his descendants, our bodies will grow old and eventually die. Suffering and pain are not defects in God's creation, but they are consequences of sin (Rom. 5:12; 2 Cor. 4:16; Heb. 9:27).

2. God gave man a soul.

Unlike the human body which is physical and visible, the human soul is immaterial and invisible. Genesis 2:7 reveals how God breathed life into Adam and he became a living soul. God makes every

person in a similar way: “The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life” (Job 33:4). Each person has a body and soul. The human soul gives value and worth that plants, animals, and other creatures do not share. Scripture teaches that the soul is the source of many immaterial elements in man such as spirit, heart, mind, and conscience. This part of man is the source of a person’s thoughts, emotions, and choices. Scripture teaches us to guard our hearts carefully and Christ explains that the heart is the source of a person’s sin or obedience:

Proverbs 4:23 *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

Mark 7:21-23 *For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness; all these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*

Matthew 22:36-38 *Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, This is the first and great commandment.*

Scripture also teaches that man’s soul (heart) can be known, searched, directed, hardened, unwilling to repent, depraved, deceitful, and trusting.

3. Man’s soul will never die.

In contrast to our bodies, our souls will never die. Human souls are not eternal like God. He had no beginning and no end; however, all human souls have a beginning, but no end. Human souls will continue to exist forever because God wants them to. The soul of every person will live forever united with a resurrected body, either with God in eternal blessedness or separated from Him in eternal punishment. Death interrupts the normal relationship between body and soul, but that interruption is only temporary. God will give all Christians new, glorified bodies in eternity (1 Cor. 15:35-49). God made the human body and soul to go together. In light of God’s future judgment, we should give attention to the condition of our soul and body. We should examine ourselves to see whether we are in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5), that is, we are truly believing in Christ and following Him in obedience (John 10:27-28).

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

Psalms 103:1-2 *Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.*

Romans 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 *What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*