

WHAT IS MAN?

by A. Craig Troxel

TO THE READER: A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

1. Before you embark on reading the booklet, try answering the question, "What is Man?" Then answer this question for yourself, "Who am I?" (5-6)
2. If mankind did get here by evolution, then what can we conclude about the meaning of man? What might that lead us to conclude about God? (6-7)
3. Thankfully, we are not animals. We are God's special creation, made in His image. What, then, is this image of God? (7-12)
4. If the heart is your mind, desires and will, then which of these are you most likely to neglect or to favor? Why is this important in light of the great commandment to love God "with *all* your heart?"
4. What difference would it have made if Adam never sinned? (17-18)
5. Let your imagination run freely on this question. What must it have been like to live in Eden? (18-19)

6. Read Genesis 3:1-13 and 4:1-16 carefully. When man sinned, there were five areas of his being that changed. The first one is given here, can you figure out the other four? (19-21)

Man fell Spiritually: Our relationship with God was broken.

Man fell _____: Our relationship with ourselves was broken.

Man fell _____: Our relationship with each other was broken.

Man fell _____: Our relationship with the creation was broken.

Man fell _____: Our relationship with our bodies was broken.

7. Ok, we sinned. But what did we do that was so bad as to deserve an eternity in hell? (21-26)

8. It is easy to make a list of what an unsaved person is like, but how many changes can you list which displays what a Christian is like? (26-32)

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

APPLICATION

Pick out the top five things you learned about yourself as a human being made in God's image. Memorize them, and even post them where you can be reminded of how important you are to God. You are created in His image for the purpose of reflecting His image, through you, to a lost and hurting world. The more you understand and appreciate how He has made you, the more the world will want what you have found.

For Further Study

Adopted by God: From Wayward Sinners to Cherished Children, Robert A. Peterson. P&R, 2001.
Self-Image: How to Overcome Inferiority Judgments, Lou Priolo. P&R, 2007.

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