

Genesis

Doctrine of Man

1. Dr. R. C. Sproul presented a series of lectures called, Dust to Glory.
2. In context, the word, “to”, refers an aim, a goal, a purpose. There is a starting point at one end, and a destiny at the other.
3. History is moving to a designated point. It finds its goal in the redemptive purpose of God.
4. The Bible reveals that God made man, and all things, for His glory.
5. A common Hebrew word for glory is, kabod, and means, “to be heavy, weighty”. “From this figurative usage it is an easy step to the concept of a "weighty" person in society, someone who is honorable, impressive, worthy of respect. This latter usage is prevalent in more than half the occurrences” (Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament).
6. The glory of God has to be the answer to the question, “Why?” “Why the world?” “Why people?” The Biblical answer is, “For the glory of God all things were created.”
 - *Romans 11:36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*
7. By using the word “to”, and “for”, a very important idea is in mind, and that is the idea of, “purpose”.
8. God has a purpose for the existence of the universe, and every person in it.
9. The specific purpose of God for man, made in His image, is revealed in Scripture.
 - *Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*
10. A divine mandate for creation is given.
 - Man is to exercise dominion over the earth.
 - Man is to be fruitful and multiply.

11. Within the Godhead there is a plan, there is agreement, and there is purpose.
12. In the 21st century there is a crisis in the minds of people in the Western world. The crisis is one of purpose.
13. The reason for this crisis is the eclipse of the idea of a Divine creation. Rejecting Biblical revelation, man no longer knows what his purpose is.
14. The idea has arisen that man is nothing but a grown up germ. Man is merely a product of time, plus space, plus chance. All is vanity.
15. When the Biblical revelation is embraced, then it is understood that life has come to pass through in an orderly, divinely ordained manner.
16. Man is not alone in the universe. Man is not a cosmic accident. Man has been created for a purpose and that is to reflect the glory of God.
17. If the view of the world is embraced, then man is cut off from any Divine purpose.
18. The meaning of life is reduced to whatever an individual wants it to be. Suicide becomes an option when there is no meaning to life, and no meaning to the universe.

 “To be, or not to be: that is the question:
 Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
 The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
 Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
 And by opposing end them? To die: to sleep;
 No more; and by a sleep to say we end
 The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks
 That flesh is heir to, 'tis a consummation
 Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep;
 To sleep: perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub.” (Hamlet, Acts III)
19. What individuals want in life is to look out for number one. The purpose of life is to get everything for self. That is what the world encourages. “Look out for number one.” “Get all the gusto you can get.”
20. The question of purpose is reflected upon in plays, movies, and philosophy.
21. The Bible resolves the question by revealing that an Intelligent, Omnipotent, Omniscient Being exists, and He knows what He is doing. As Albert Einstein said, “God does not play dice.” The origin of the universe is not a game of chance, but the purpose of Deity.

22. Question. "Is there a purpose for your existence?" If there is not God, there is not purpose. If there is no purpose, there is no God.
23. If there is God, there is a purpose. If there is a purpose, there must be God. Man is created in the image, and likeness of God.
24. God cannot create another God. He cannot clone Himself. God can create special work to bear His image, to mirror His essence, to display His character, and to reflect His glory.
25. God can create someone who bears His image and to whom all other creation is subject to him.
26. What is the image of God?
27. Part of that image of God, which man reflects is God's intelligence, will, power, and emotions. Man is aware, he is conscious. Man does not want "The Force" to be with him, for that might be an electric shock, a tidal wave, or a volcanic eruption. A force is known without intelligence.
28. Man does want the living God to be with him. Man wants to be involved with the phenomena of thinking, willing, deciding, learning, reasoning, and knowing.
29. Man is limited in these facets, but there is a similarity with God.
30. The Fall of Man has altered man, who is made in the image of God. There is a moral failure to the soul that is recognized. It is unlike any flaws in nature.
31. In order for there to be a moral fall, there must be a moral creature. God gives man a will, intellect, and emotions. God gives men personality.
32. The personality that God initiates, and ordains in creation, is not one dimensional, unisexual, or androgynous. God creates male and female. God creates humanity in such a way there can be a marvelous relationship between a male and female.
33. God empowers, and endows people with a unique captivity to reflect the power and glory of God.
34. The consummate day of creation is not the sixth day, but the seventh day. The seventh day is hallowed. It is made sacred.
35. Man, made on the sixth day, was made for that which is sacred, for that which is holy, for that which reflects God's glory.