

Elijah bourg  
The Doctrine of Man  
Bricks and mortar  
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## THE DOCTRINE OF MAN

To find out what is true.

In Dom's first message in this series he talked about Alisa Childers. She is a Christian apologist who went on a search to find out what is true about the Christian faith. So that her faith would either be done away with or strengthened fully. In this series we are doing the same. We are strengthening what we believe by looking at the truth. After that first message Dom preached, he spoke about scripture and its inerrancy, its foolproof perfection. to believe that scripture isn't God's perfect word throws down all the other truths that we stand for. Then last week Dom took us on a beautiful journey re-establishing our belief about who our God is. He is the sovereign Lord who is in control of all. He is life and He is trinity. Now with an accurate view of who God is let's take a dive into our accurate doctrinal beliefs about who man is.

If just anyone decided to attempt to fly a plane things could go very wrong! Suppose I believed myself to be a pilot when in fact I am not! I could cause some serious damage if I were to try and fly a plane. An improper view of who we are leads to very dangerous beliefs and actions.

What should we as human beings believe about ourselves?

What a person believes about themselves is highly important. What man believes about itself informs the way man lives.

**We as Christians MUST have an accurate, truthful, Biblical view of who man is.**

In tonight's sermon we will look at the Biblical view of man

1. Man's purpose is to glorify God
2. Man's state is one of total depravity
3. Man's justification was bought by Man's Creator

## **1. Man's purpose is to glorify God**

Psalm 145:10-12

<sup>10</sup> All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
and all your saints shall bless you!

<sup>11</sup> They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,

<sup>12</sup> to make known to the children of man your<sup>[a]</sup> mighty deeds, and the glorious  
splendor of your kingdom..

Our Lord has done all things for His own glory. He is above all and there is none like Him. When our God created us He made us in His image and likeness. This is a very crucial fact in determining Man's purpose.

Genesis 1:27

**27** So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

**WE ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD!!** That is amazing! Our God made us in His own image and likeness...why? Why would God make us look like Him? Why would God make us creative and imaginative like He is?

Progressive Christianity will use this to teach that God is in all things, including YOU! They say that God is in all things and all things are in God. This reduces God to some mystical force that is part of everything. So instead

of being made in God's image with attributes like those that make Him God, we have God inside us, and so do all things. I have God in me at birth and that chair has God in it and my dog Lucy has God in her. We are already good because God is inside us as well as all things. The god in us to a level of being like little gods ourselves.

This reduces what God did at our creation and it reduces who He IS by saying that like some kind of seasoning in food God is spread throughout us and everything. Everything has some God in it. No, God is not part of you. God is other. Yes, He is everywhere, BUT He is Holy which means separate. God is not glorified by being spread into everything but by being separate from everything and ABOVE everything.

Our God, who is Holy and completely other, made us after Himself so that we would pursue being like Him in Holiness, creativity, and character. This brings Him glory. All things work for His glory as we learned from Romans 11:36. So we humans are made to glorify God in our being like Him.

God is a marvelous and artful creator. Just like any artist would, God signed His beautiful artwork and He did so by making us in His image. In all of creation it is humanity that reflects God. there is nothing like man in all of creation. No tree, no beautiful sunset or sunrise, no pod of whales, no lion, no earth splitting wind, or even raging fire could accurately depict our God the way that we are CREATED TO!!! This should not fill us with pride so much as it should bring an immobilizing humility!! We are endowed with the task of pointing to God as creator. All creation points to one artist, and WE have the fine pleasure of being His SIGNATURE on it all!

We are not made in his image to make ourselves feel better but to magnify the artist who made us like this. When we walk the earth, creation ought to be reminded of the one who spoke it into existence and God ought to be magnified and glorified. This leaves no room for our own glory, but only for the

one who deserves all glory, majesty, dominion, and authority. We must repent and turn back to our original purpose. Recognize that you are meant to glorify, and live like you know it! Live to glorify the God that made you. That's going to require you following His commands in your daily life. Over your summer, use your extra time wisely! Slow down and think every morning when you wake up at 11:30 "How can I fulfill my purpose of glorifying you today God?"

It may be as simple as being kind and gracious or as large as leading your family in a study through scripture. Do something. Magnify the Lord. Be creative with it.

Man's purpose is to glorify God in creation, but instead we chose to glorify ourselves when we believed we could become like Him by disobeying Him. In one outrageous and misguided sin of trying to selfishly be more like God, humanity took an enormous leap away from God and stranded itself with no way of returning to connection with its Holy God. Humanity became a depraved, dead shell of what was meant to magnify the Living God.

This brings us to our second point in learning an accurate view of Man

## **2. Man's state is one of total depravity**

Romans 3:10-12

**10** as it is written:

"None is righteous, no, not one;

**11** no one understands;  
no one seeks for God.

**12** All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;  
no one does good,  
not even one."

Among man there is no one that is good by God's definition. All of humanity is touched by sin. This isn't to say that we are all as bad as we can be. No,

people could be much much worse. Even the most evil men in history could have committed worse atrocities than they did.

Isaiah 64:6

**6** We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

What I'm trying to communicate about the state of man is that because it is touched by sin even the best is no good. Even the most charitable and good things that man can do are a stench that burns the nostrils of God because we are stained by sin.

Has anyone ever had an animal die inside the wall of your house? I've had that happen. The smell spreads everywhere. The rat is only in one wall but the whole house is permeated by the smell and there's nothing any part of the house can do to stop the smelling bad as long as it remains part of the house. Sin permeates us in the same way. Even though some of our actions may not be all bad we are still thoroughly permeated by sin. All those who are in sin are under the curse of death.

What does Progressive Christianity have to say about sin?

“many of us, don't believe that Jesus had to come and die for our particular sins to atone a vengeful God. We don't really know what to teach children because we don't want them bogged down in shame and guilt—yet we also want them to grow into adults [who] are moral and ethical and compassionate.”

We don't want people to feel bad, but we know deep down that sin makes people bad and that's wrong.

Sin does not saturate Man, and it is not chiefly against a holy God. Sin instead is an evil force at work like the dark side in star wars. To progressives, sin is

something that interferes with unity amongst people and freedom to express yourself. Sin rejects certain lifestyles and makes people feel guilt and shame. To progressives, sin isn't bad because it is rejection of a holy God. Instead, sin is bad because it makes people feel bad and it causes division. For them, the real issue with sin isn't sin at all, but its conviction. What is the truth about sin?

We believe that sin is any rejection of God. We are all sinful and there is nothing we can do to escape sin. Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Every man will sin, and sin permeates to the core just like the smell of something dead in one wall permeates the whole home.

Romans 5:12

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men<sup>[e]</sup> because all sinned—

Sin is very serious because it's not just against each other. Although it is the cause of our spiritual death it is not evil because it makes life tough, it's not just evil for causing war, its not evil just because it causes things like racism, it's EVIL because it separates us from our creator and our created purpose.

Psalm 51:4 against you and you only have I sinned. Says this after sleeping with a woman and killing her husband. Sin is against our Holy God and we are full of it.

There is a major problem. Image bearers of the perfect and Holy living God are dead and imperfect. This cannot be so. We cannot point to a living God as dead people. And what's more than that, we can't desire to if we're dead! No one who is living in sin wants to magnify the Lord. Why would sinful people want to stop sinning, and if they did want to stop how could any dead person save themselves? That's like expecting a stinky house to make itself smell good all of a sudden. Sinful man cannot fulfill its created purpose. Man is hopelessly depraved and dead on their own...but there's hope.

Ezekiel 37:7-14 just tell the story

**7** So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, [c] and the bones came together, bone to its bone. **8** And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. **9** Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." **10** So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

**11** Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' **12** Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. **13** And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. **14** And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

The living God has decided to make a way for sinful, dead people to live and to know Him. They will once again be able to fulfill their purpose and this will bring Him glory. They will be just like those raised from the dead in Ezekiel.

If God made us His image bearers then it is His will that He should get glory from us in that way. So it makes sense that He would redeem us and restore us in Christ..but there's an issue. What about those who aren't saved? Or are NEVER saved? Do they live outside of the will of God? Doesn't that make it possible to live outside of GOD'S will? By no means!! All things work according to God's plan and He has planned all things so that He gets glory. Those who are not saved are justly punished. And God's justice is shown to be great and righteous in that those who stand in rebellion to him are

punished. On the other side of things we see that His grace is shown to be magnificent in that those who are undeserving of forgiveness and new life are justified by Christ's sacrifice

Whether displaying His perfect Grace through forgiveness or His perfect Justice through wrath, God is glorified. Make no mistake, God gets His glory no matter what because that is who He is. His will cannot be juked. It cannot be avoided.

“Dread it. Run from it. Destiny still arrives.”-Thanos the Mad Titan

God's will and God's glory are inevitable.

We cannot call ourselves Christians and not respond to the beautiful Grace that has been given to us.

When we recognize that we are sinful and that we were not meant to be that way, we turn to the Lord for help and for salvation. He then frees us and we glorify God because we've been restored. If you are listening to this and you haven't been restored tonight is the night. Repent and believe in the Lord. He saves. If you have been restored then don't neglect to give God glory for having done the work of saving you. Live like you were meant to, and glorify God in all that you do. Don't continue to do the same things that you did before when you were dead. Don't compromise in your integrity. This summer is your best opportunity to ditch those friends who aren't glorifying the Lord. You won't be seeing them at school everyday so just stay home and spend time with God! You won't regret it!

What a person believes about themselves is highly important. What humanity believes about itself informs the way people live. If we live thinking wrongly about our sin we accept it instead of turning away from it. We must recognize that sin kills us and separates us from God, and we are completely consumed by it.

That is who we are. We are hopeless and sin ridden and in opposition of our intended purpose and our creator

### **3. Man's justification was bought by Man's Creator**

So far, we have learned that man was created with a specific purpose that they abandoned. Man abandoned the living and doing so they embraced sin and death. But there's hope because our creator has made a way for man to be reconciled and made alive again.

Our gracious God orchestrated a beautiful plan for our redemption. In that plan we play no part, but it is our God who does the work. Remember because what we could mess up, we already did. Now we don't get to mess this up.

Romans 5:6

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Just like the dry bones in Ezekiel, we could do nothing to save ourselves in our sin. A coma patient or someone who experienced a lot of trauma or even someone right on the edge of death has hope for a quick enough healing or shock back to life but someone who has been dead for YEARS could never live again. That would be impossible but NOT FOR OUR LORD! Jesus takes people who have been decaying for years, sometimes entire lifetimes and raises them to life. Jesus is our only way to be born again.

Sin-stained man was in dire need of a perfect sacrifice, and Jesus was exactly that. Jesus is not merely the best of humanity, He is God. Jesus is Holy above all of creation. If anything was going to be the perfect sacrifice it was Him.

Jesus provided Penalty substitution. We, being dead in our sins and in debt to the God who created us must be justly punished. God is a just judge and He cannot rightly pardon the guilty. Any criminal's crime must be paid for. That is

where Jesus being a perfect sacrifice comes into play. Jesus is the one who provides penalty substitution. Death was the PENALTY, and it was Christ who was our SUBSTITUTE. WE DON'T HAVE TO DIE A SINNERS DEATH because He did for us! We see penalty substitution prophesied of in

Isaiah 53:5

<sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted,  
<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.

This substitution is only by the grace of our Lord. It is not earned, but it is gained only through faith. Christ's sacrifice made a way for sins to be atoned for. Those whose soft hearts have faith and believe are saved from death and cleansed from sin. They are made alive just as Christ is alive.

Ephesians 2:8-9 <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Imputed righteousness. For those who believe in Christ and place their faith in the work that He did to cleanse sinful man, righteousness is imputed to them. Christ's righteousness is given so that after being cleared of sin, those who believe are seen by God as He sees His own son. This is necessary because no one can be righteous on their own. We need the righteousness of Christ to cover us for all time because if not we would surely continue to be wicked.

Romans 3:10-12

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Imputed righteousness is the reason that God sees us the same way that He sees His son. We are counted as His children because it is Jesus that covers us. This is necessary because, as romans 3 confirms, on our own we cannot be righteous.

Penalty substitution was made available by the grace of our Lord, and it is accessed through our Faith in Him. At the moment of our belief, Christ's righteousness is imputed to us so that we are forever counted righteous just like the Son is righteous. Through this process we go from standing accused to totally Justified.

Think back to the smelly house from earlier. This is just the opposite of that. Where once the smell pf death permeated everything, now the smell of life permeates all!

Salvation is the solution to man's problem. We rejected our purpose and became depraved. Through being justified we can once again magnify the Lord like we were created to. By the death of Christ, we have been bought back, and now we not only point to Him as a mighty and majestic creator but also as a sovereign and gracious savior! How beautiful!

Think back to the opening illustration about someone who is not a pilot attempting to fly a plane. Man tried to be something that it wasn't, and it ruined everything, but God was still in control! Now we can become like someone we could never have dreamed of becoming, and it fixes everything.

An accurate view of man recognizes that we are nothing but fully dead in sin. That accurate and humble view of who we are leads us only to look up for help and be saved by the work of our gracious God. We can repent and believe and be saved because of what He has done for us. And it's simple. All you have to do is humbly recognize who you are as part of humanity and then turn from that. It looks like this "God I recognize that as a member of this world I am in opposition to you. I'm sorry God. I want to be a citizen of Heaven instead. I am done not glorifying you in my life."

That's repentance. If that is done with sincerity, then the faith is already present because it is impossible to turn to the savior and sincerely repent without having faith in His power to save already. You do nothing except have faith and even that is not produced by any work or strength of your own.

For those of you who have already placed your faith in the Lord for salvation, I implore you to glorify Him in whatever ways you can! Everywhere you go and as often as possible you've got to be sharing the good news. In your homes and on vacation this summer worship God and glorify Him through action. Help people and give glory to God if you are thanked for any deed, praise God for everything! If ever you are complimented stop and turn the glory back to God. If ever something good happens to you, at every meal, when visiting with people who are a blessing to you, thank God and praise Him genuinely.

**We as Christians MUST have an accurate, truthful, Biblical view of who man is.**

Man's purpose is to glorify God

Man's state is one of total depravity

Man's justification was bought by Man's Creator

These truths should leave us with a profound view of who God is. A proper view of man produces the HIGHEST VIEW of our good God!! This should make us grateful for who our God is and grateful for the things that He has done for us! Our God is the glorious creator of the universe and He's the

master of salvation. He is a just judge and a gracious father, and He does all things for His glory. He is sovereign over death and life, He is abounding in steadfast love. He is like no other in Holiness and nothing can compare to Him!

Challenge 1: Praise God for who He is daily by yourself. I recommend journaling something about how awesome He is and then reading it aloud.  
Challenge 2: If you haven't accepted Christ as your savior accept Him now. Believe properly about who you are and know that you need Jesus, the good, loving, and perfect savior. Repent and believe in Him and be saved.