

Element 2: The Attributes of Mankind: Parts B, C & D

Is Mankind Intrinsicly Good, Neutral or Evil? / How Valuable is Human Life? / Who is Responsible?

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I. Eight Essential Elements: Outline & Overview

0. Intro: Proclamation / Pre-Evangelism / Disciples / Pole Fishing / Diagnostic Tools / 7 Missing Elements
1. God: Essential Biblical Attributes: (Non-Communicable & Communicable)
2. Man: Essential Biblical Attributes: (3 Issues / Culpability / Empowerment)
3. The 10 Commandments: (Exodus 20:1-17) & (Deuteronomy 5:1-21)
4. Historical Narrative of Israel & Warning(s) of Eternal Judgment Day: The Gospel Presentations in Acts
5. Jesus Christ: Only Mediator: Intro to Christology: Bridge / Solution / Ministry / Atonement / Reign
6. Receiving Jesus Christ: (John 1:12-13) Responding: Key Components & Exchanges of Soteriology
7. The First 5 Steps Into the Kingdom of Christ: Acts 2:37-47 (See Pt. I, E, 3 Above)
8. Maturing in Jesus Christ: 3 Tools of Grace - Vital Growth Ingredients / Necessity of Discipleship

II. Setting the Table: World Views: Three Questions About the Intrinsic Attributes of Humans

(2 Corinthians 4:1-7) Therefore, since we have this ministry, just as God has shown us mercy, we do not become discouraged. ² But we have renounced disgraceful hidden deeds, not behaving with deceptiveness or adulterating the word of God, but **by open proclamation of the truth we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience before God**. ³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing, ⁴ among whom the god of this age has **blinded the minds** of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said "*Let light shine out of darkness,*" is the one who shined in our hearts to give us the light of the glorious knowledge of God in the face of Christ. (ESV / NET)

(Note 1: Bold Emphasis is Mine / Italics are quotes from Old Testament. See Genesis 1:2-4 ; Isaiah 9:2, Etc.)

(Note 2: Remember Principle of Reading the Reverse Negative & Modern Times / Cultural Denial of Bad News)

- A. Does Mankind have an Intrinsic Ethical Nature or Moral Predisposition? / That is
Are We Basically Morally Good; Neutral (Tabula Rasa); or Evil (Twisted / Flawed)?
 1. Good: Believed by the Vast Majority of Blind Naturalist (Materialist) Modernist Humanist
 2. Neutral: Believed by the Remainder of Blind Naturalist (Materialist) Modernist Humanist
Note: See Implications for Heredity (Nature) vs. Environment (Nurture) Below
 3. Evil (Flawed or Twisted): Not believed by the Vast Majority of Blind Naturalist (Materialist) Modernist Humanist (Despite Universality of the Doctrine of "Sin")
Note: Man's Inhumanity to Man Theme in Literature; Arts & 100% of Social Philosophies
Examples: History; Freud; Marx; Hitler; Greek Tragedies; Russian Novels; John Steinbeck; Etc.
- B. Do Humans have Innate Value? (Expressed in relation to Creator; Life Forms; Money, State, Etc.)
 1. Created In God's Image? (Imago Dei) / Crown of Creation? Or...
 2. Most Evolved Species? Product of Conception? Tissue? In Relation to Species, Etc.
- C. Is Human Character & Behavior Formed Primarily by Heredity (Nature) or Environment (Nurture)
Note: Implications State & Church / Implications for Responsibility or Empowerment

III. The Three Essential Attributes of Mankind (Essential for the Gospel & All of Life):

- A. Created In God's Image (Imago Dei): Infinite Value / Crown of Creation / Pro-Life / Anti-Slavery (Etc.)

(**Genesis 1:26-28a**) Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ God blessed them; and God said ... (See also Psalm 100:3)

Nicene Creed: I believe in one God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. **Apostle's Creed**: I believe in one God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth

B. Created for Eternal Purpose: Ultimate & Noble: Destiny / Eternal Decree

(Genesis 1:28) God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

(Psalm 8:4-6) What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? ⁵ Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! ⁶ You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, ...

(Note: Callings of Various Biblical Individuals & Entire Church of Jesus Christ / Ex.: Ephesians 2:11-22)

(Note: Restoration to Harmony w/ Your Created Nature and Purpose is the Hope of the Gospel. 2 Cor. 5:13-21)

C. Fallen: Not Just Flawed, Twisted (Perverted) / Not Just Twisted, Enslaved to Sin (Power & Nature)

1. The Historical Account of Mankind's Transgression: (Genesis 3:1-24)

2. Seven Characteristics (Attributes) of Mankind's Fallen Nature: (Not Exhaustive or Comprehensive)

a. Hiding From God (Denial): Blame Shifting, Excuse Making, Escape Mechanism's

(Genesis 3:8-10) They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

(Romans 1:18-20) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (Romans 3:10-13 ... no one who seeks God.) (Quoted from Psalm 14:1-3; Psalm 53:1-3)

b. Unrighteous:

(Romans 3:10, 23) ¹⁰ As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

(Isaiah 64:6) For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

c. Deceived / Blind: (Major Biblical Theme: See Johannine & Pauline Writings, Etc.)

(Jeremiah 17:9) The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (KJV)

(1 John 5:19) We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

d. Independent or Rebellious:

(Isaiah 53:6) All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

e. Slave of Sin: – Addiction, Bondage:

(John 8:34) Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.

(Romans 6:16) Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

f. Spiritually Dead & Destined to Die Physically: Subject to Corruption

(Rom. 6:23) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Ephesians 2:1-3) And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

g. Separated From God: Without Hope or Purpose / Subject to Futility: (Read Romans 8:18-24)

(Isaiah 59:2) But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear. (See also Ephesians 2:12; 4:17-19)

