The Battle Over Anthropology

Who is Man?

Truth

Reality

VS

Lie

Illusion

The Pernicious Lie

The Biblical View of Man

His essence

His moral state

His need

The states of man

—or--

“modes”

The Biblical View of Man

mode 1: innocent

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;

Genesis 1:27

The Biblical View of Man

mode 2: fallen

...sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned--

Romans 5:12

The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Genesis 6:5
Descriptions & Names of the Old Man

Evil
Rebellious
Dead
Without hope
Blind
Haters of God
Deaf
Desperately Wicked
Lost
Children of the devil

You cannot slander human nature; it is worse than words can paint it.

C. H. Spurgeon

The Biblical View of Man

mode 2a: hell

If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:15

…man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

Hebrews 9:27

The Biblical View of Man

mode 3: redeemed

…with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Revelation 5:9

Descriptions & Names of the New Man

The redeemed
Saints
Priests
Called out ones
The people of God
A holy nation
Children of God
Sons of God
Beloved
Wear white robes
Born from above

**But, We Carry Something**

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

*Galatians 5:16-17*

**The Cosmic Battle Within**

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do... I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

*Romans 7:15, 18-20*

**The Cosmic Battle Within**

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

*Romans 7:24-25*

**The Cosmic Battle Within**

**this does not absolve us from responsibility!!**

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

*Romans 6:12*

&

*Romans 8:5-14*

**The Biblical View of Man**

The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

*1 Corinthians 15:42-44*
THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF MAN

His essence
made in the image of God
dualistic: both flesh and spirit
His moral state
fallen nature
His need
redemption

THE BATTLE OVER ANTHROPOLOGY

who is Man?

Truth
Reality
imago deo

VS

Lie
Illusion
Dualistic, Fallen, Redemption

THE COSMOS IS ALL THAT IS, OR EVER WAS, OR EVER WILL BE.
Carl Sagan

THE WORLD & CORLISS LAMONT’S PRIMARY DOCTRINE

“The nonreality of the supernatural means, on the human level, that men do not possess supernatural and immortal souls…”
The Philosophy of Humanism, pg 116


NATURALISTIC PHILOSOPHY IMPLICATIONS

If man is but a material beast, having nothing beyond the evolutionary cosmic particles, then what must we conclude about man? does he have a purpose beyond himself? can he have any meaning in life?

does he have a **free** will?

is he basically **good**?

is there anything **beyond** the grave?

**Naturalistic Philosophy Implications**

Dr. William Provine

No gods or purposive forces
No ultimate foundation for ethics
No free will
No life after death
No ultimate meaning in life

Professor of Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University
Debate with Phillip Johnson, Stanford University
“Summary of Implications of Modern Evolutionary Biology”, April 30 1994

**SOURCE OF TRUTH?**

Paul Kurtz

“Using the powerful critical tools of science and logical analysis, modern man now recognizes that the universe has no special human meaning or purpose and that man is not a special product of creation.”

The Humanist Alternative, pg 5

**Implications from an Icon of Evolution**

Haeckel’s Embryos

“A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy.”

Ingrid Newkirk
president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals


Rogers, Carl, "Notes on Rollo May," *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, Summer 1982, Volume 22, Number 3; p. 8. Published by The Association for Humanistic Psychology, Tiburon, CA.
If you think in terms of the basic needs; instincts, at least at the outset, are all ‘good’...careful study of them [instincts] will provide the values we need by which better societies can evolve."

Abraham Maslow

"Since this inner nature is good or neutral rather than bad, it is best to bring it out and to encourage it rather than to suppress it. If it is permitted to guide our life, we grow healthy, fruitful, and happy."

Abraham Maslow

"For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live."

Romans 8:13

"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived..."

Colossians 3:5-10

But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Colossians 3:5-10
"No! Get in touch with the inner man...let him flourish...if you let him guide your life, you will be healthy, fruitful and happy.”

This is **self-actualization**...and the consequences are **huge**...

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**What is the enemy of self-actualization?**

**Suppression**

of one’s inner desires

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**Who is Man?**

the **Truth** claims

-Man is created in the image of God

-God-man, a product of mindless, purposeless forces

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-Man, though created perfect, rebelled against God and is now fallen, his heart desperately wicked

-Man is basically good

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-Man needs divine grace, regeneration, and redemption

-Man must save himself through self-oriented pursuits
The Battle Over Anthropology

Who is Man?

Truth
Reality

VS

Lie
Illusion

Imago deo
Dualistic, Fallen, Redemption

Imago good
Monistic, good, self-actualization

Hmmm???

“[Man’s] inner nature is good…”

“….we just don’t have any intrinsic instincts for evil…”

“…instincts, at least at the outset, are all ‘good’…”

Hmmm???

doesn’t this raise a very obvious and important question???

if Man is instinctively and basically good, then why is there evil in the world?

Jean-Jacques Rousseau
(1712-1778)

“If man is good by nature, as I believe to have shown him to be, it follows that he stays like that as long as nothing foreign to him corrupts him.”

“Man was born free, but everywhere he is in chains!”

How Shall We Then Live, Schaeffer, pg 165

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques (1762); The Social Contract.

Carl Rogers

“For myself, though I am very well aware of the incredible amount of destructive, cruel, malevolent behavior in today’s world—from the threats of war to the senseless violence in the streets—I do not find that this evil is inherent in human nature.”

Journal of Humanistic Psychology, Summer 1982, Volume 22, Number 3; p. 8.
The Logical Question...

If evil doesn’t come from human nature, then where does it come from?

If Man is Good? Why is there Evil?

"Sick people are made by a sick culture; healthy people are made possible by a healthy culture."

Abraham Maslow

If Man is Good? Why is there Evil?

"...experience leads me to believe that it is cultural influences which are the major factor in our evil behaviors."

Carl Rogers

Interesting Question

the “feeling bad about evil” problem

why does evil bother you?

why do you feel bad about evil?

isn’t evil, as you described it, simply the natural outworking of the evolutionary process?

Our Culture’s Anthropology

Basic Assumptions

man, by nature, is good

mental health and happiness come through self-actualization and getting in touch with one’s real ‘good’ self

social institutions are responsible for man’s evil actions

David Noebel, Understanding the Times


