

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Video Lecture Series

by Robert D. McCurley, ThM

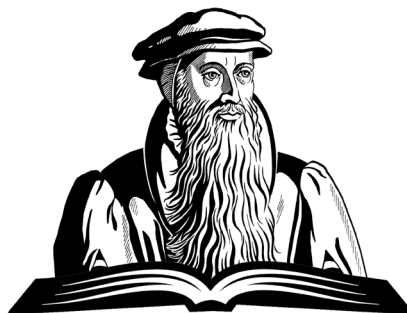
STUDY GUIDE

Module 3:

THE DOCTRINE OF MAN

Lecture 2:

THE NATURE OF MAN



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

© 2021 by John Knox Institute of Higher Education

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means for profit, except in brief quotations for the purposes of review, comment, or scholarship, without written permission from the publisher, John Knox Institute, P.O. Box 19398, Kalamazoo, MI 49019-19398, USA.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

Visit our website: www.johnknoxinstitute.org

Rev. Robert D. McCurley is minister of the Gospel at Greenville Presbyterian Church, in Taylors, South Carolina, a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), Presbytery of the United States of America.

greenvillepresbyterian.com

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

by Robert D. McCurley, ThM

STUDY GUIDE

Module 3

The Doctrine of Man

1. Introduction
- 2. The Nature of Man**
3. Man as the Image of God
4. The Freedom of Man's Will
5. The Nature of Sin
6. The Doctrine of Original Sin
7. The Doctrine of Total Depravity
8. The Doctrine of the Covenant of Works
9. The Doctrine of the Covenant of Grace
10. The Doctrine of the Law of God

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

by Robert D. McCurley, ThM

STUDY GUIDE

Module 3:

THE DOCTRINE OF MAN

Lecture 2:

The Nature of Man

Introduction

A mirror can only show you one part of the body—the part facing the mirror, and whatever fits within the size of that mirror frame. But there is more to you than what is reflected in any mirror. You have a soul, as well as a body, and the soul cannot be seen with the eye. Truly understanding ourselves requires looking beyond what is skin deep. We need to answer questions like, Who am I? What is my origin? Where is my destiny? What is my purpose in life? How do I know things? And on and on the questions go. Many of these questions can only be answered by the Lord God, and he provides the answers in the Scriptures. Only the Creator and Designer himself knows truly and fully what man is.

Theme: *The Nature of Man.*

I. Scriptural Basis

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed...And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.” (Genesis 2:7–8 and 21–25)

1. Man is the apex of all that God made.
2. Man’s lowly origins.
3. Man became a living soul.

Questions:

1. How does the Bible show us that man is the apex of all that God made?

2. What truths about mankind can you draw from these passages in Genesis 2?

II. Doctrinal Overview

As summarized in *The Westminster Confession of Faith*, chapter 4, paragraph 2.

“After God had made all other creatures, He created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after His own image; having the law of God written in their hearts.”

1. Man is a creature, a created being.
2. God created mankind with physical, material bodies.
 - a. The body has dignity.
 - b. Christ, in his incarnation, assumed to himself a true human body.
 - c. We are to devote the parts of our body as “instruments of righteousness unto God.”
3. We have a living, immortal, and reasonable soul.
 - a. Dispensationalism
 - b. Man is constituted chiefly of two things: body and soul.
 - c. The soul has various faculties.
4. Man was created with the moral law of God written on his heart.
 - a. Man was created with a sense of good and evil.
5. Mankind was created male and female from the beginning, according to God’s perfect design.
 - a. God made both male and female, united in dignity, and united in their faculties and privileges, as bearers of the image of God, but distinguished as man and women.
 - b. The roles of men and women within the church.
 - c. The roles of men and women in the home.
 - d. Male headship reflects the greater relationship of Christ as Head to his bride, the church.

Questions:

1. In what ways is man significant as a created being?

2. Why do we say that the physical body is not evil? What are the purposes of the faculties of the body?

3. What are the faculties of the soul? How should we understand the words “soul” and “spirit”? What do they mean in God’s Word?

4. What does it mean to say that man was created with God’s moral law written on his heart?

5. God created us male and female. Does the man have more dignity than the woman? Or vice versa? Why? How many genders are there besides male and female?

6. According to the Bible, what are the roles of men and women within the church?

7. What are the biblical roles of men and of women within the family? What important relationship is reflected in this?

III. Polemical Exposition

Error 1: *Some theologians deny the historicity of Adam as the very first man.*

Statement 2: *We need to assert the fact that no group within mankind is more or less human than another group.*

Error 3: *Man is merely material.*

Questions:

1. How do the Scriptures prove that Adam was a real historical man? Why is this a vital truth?

2. Are some groups of people within mankind more or less human than others? How should we view racism?

3. What are the dangers of denying the soul of man?

IV. Practical Exposition

1. The place of humility.
2. The bodies of believers belong to the Lord for his service.
3. The soul of man is the soul of the matter.
4. The dignity of the believer's body and the immeasurable value of the soul.

Questions:

1. Are we only dependent on the Lord for the big things? What else do we depend on him for?

2. In this lecture, we learned that the bodies of believers belong to the Lord for his service. What are the practical applications of this truth?

3. In this lecture, Rev. McCurley stated, "The soul of man is the soul of the matter." How did he explain the meaning behind this statement?

4. Does the believer's body have dignity even after death? How is this expressed by the fact that their body is laid in the grave? What is the state of the believer's body at death? What is the state of the believer's soul at death?

V. Self-Reflection

After your studies in this lecture, please set apart some time to meditate on the truths set forth. How will these truths direct your daily life? How do they affect the way you think about your body and your soul? Whether you are a male or a female, how do these truths help you to live a biblical Christian life in the church and in the home? Have you come to see how totally dependent you are on the Lord for everything at every moment?
