

Foundation Study 6: Man

What do the following verses say about man?

1. **Genesis 2:7**

Man was created by God (Psalm 95:6, 100:3; Isaiah 42:5, 45:12). God created the first man from the immaterial earth. He gave him life through His own breath. Human beings are not the product of randomness, chance, mutation, or evolution but rather, the intentional work of the Creator; God Himself. Each person is a deliberate, purposeful, planned, and providential creation by God (Psalm 139:13–16). No one is a mistake, a surprise, or unplanned. Everyone possesses immeasurable worth. (Luke 12:7).

2. **Genesis 1:27**

Man is created in the image of God (Genesis 5:1–2; Colossians 3:10; 1 Corinthians 11:7). Only human beings share certain characteristics with God. Only man can conceive of God, choose God and cherish God. Which is to say, only humans can imagine God, be saved by God and worship God. The idea of the image of God in man can also be seen in Matthew 22:37: “Love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, all your **soul**, and all your **mind**.” Only man is described using these terms.

3. **John 5:28–29**

Man exists eternally (Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:46; Acts 24:15). Based upon his choice in this life, man spends eternity either in the presence of God in Heaven or absent from God in a very real place called hell—a place of isolation and suffering from which there is no escape or return (Luke 16:19–31). The choice is ours. Either way, we live forever...in one of those two places.

4. **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

Man is composed of both the material and the immaterial. The material is physical and immaterial is spiritual. The material refers to the earthly body. It is designed to live for decades at most in its present form (Psalm 90:10). The

immaterial includes the soul, spirit, heart, conscience, mind, and will. Ryrie states, “The soul is the center of emotional and spiritual experiences. The spirit is also the center of various traits, emotions, and activities. The heart is the seat of intellectual, emotional, volitional, and spiritual life. The conscience is an internal witness. The mind includes the faculties of perceiving and understanding. The will is the internal drive.”¹ It is the immaterial part of man that exists forever.

5. **Romans 3:23**

Man is sinful (Romans 3:10; Proverbs 20:9; 1 Kings 8:46; Ecclesiastes 7:20). Man’s sinful nature is the result of imputed sin as well as inherited sin. Imputed sin is the direct transfer of Adam’s sinful nature to us (Romans 5:12). Inherited sin is the generational transmission of sin nature from parents to offspring. It occurs at conception (Psalm 51:5). “If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth...if we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that His word has no place in our hearts” (1 John 1:8,10). No matter how you look at it, we are hopelessly sinful and in desperate need of salvation (Jeremiah 17:9).

6. **Ephesians 2:1-3**

Man’s sinfulness deserves judgment. Man’s sinful nature results in sinful behavior; we cannot sin. God’s just nature results in righteous behavior; He cannot judge sin. Hence, humanity finds itself in a desperate, helpless and hopeless dilemma (Ephesians 2:12, Romans 5:6). We merited the wrathful judgment of God.

7. **Ecclesiastes 3:11**

Man can envision eternity. God has placed the idea of forever in the mind of each person. He has placed an eternal “spark” in everyone. This enables man to imagine an idea that is not defined by time and extends indefinitely. This is the foundation upon which God informs man of himself. God first informs man of His existence

¹ Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 225.

through creation (Romans 1:20, Psalm 19:1-6, Acts 14:17) and then of His nature through Scripture.

This also results in the universal truth that all men worship. The issue is not do people worship; it's, do they worship truthfully? As author Charles Ryrie states, "In reality, everyone is theologian...and therein lies the problem."²

8. **Joshua 24:15**

Man can choose God (Proverbs 1:29, Ecclesiastes 9:3). Man is created with the ability to make a personal decision about his relationship with God. The decision to choose God is available to everyone. (Romans 10:13). Some refuse to choose God in the face of amazing circumstances (Revelation 9:20, 16:9–11). Others refuse out of sheer stubbornness (Romans 2:5). Still, many chose God (Matthew 16:15, 16).

9. **Psalm 95:6**

Man can cherish God (Psalm 96:9, 100:2, 132:7, 138:2). Man can worship God. Man is designed to experience His greatest joy in a personal relationship with God. God created man to be able to consider Him, choose Him, and worship Him.

10. **Hebrews 4:13**

Man is accountable to God (Job 34:21; Psalm 33:13–14). All humanity must give an answer to its Creator. Some will do so in a state of unbelief and will be judged to spend eternity apart from the presence of God (Revelation 20:11–15). Others will do so in a state of belief and give an account of their lives as followers of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10).

God holds everyone accountable for what can be known about Him through creation. Everyone should acknowledge that God exists, that He is the Creator of all things, and that He is infinitely strong and inherently good (read Romans 1:19-32, Psalm 19:1–4 and Acts 14:17). However, **everyone suppresses these obvious truths**. Even though this basic information about God is available to all of us, we

² Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 9.

choose not to honor Him as our Creator or to thank Him for His goodness. Instead, we substitute our own ideas of who He is and what He's like. We deliberately ignore God's eternal glory. We worship what He made instead of He who made it.

Depravity ensues as we continue to create our own theology about who God is and what He's like. **Our condemnation is not based on rejecting a gospel we have not heard. That would be unjust. It is based on sinning against the light we have. That is just.**

What was the most meaningful verse in this study? Explain.