

*Jesus said, "I am the way,
the truth, and the life."*

—John 14:6

What is TRUTH?

Culture demands ... and deserves an answer



The Wednesday BibleLife Series
Terry R Baughman, Lead Pastor

What is Truth?

Culture demands an answer ... and Culture deserves an answer.

— I plan to teach several lessons in this series.

- First of all we will establish a foundation for the Word of God as being truth.
- We will establish core doctrines of our faith in Jesus Christ and who He is
- Then we will approach some topics of apologetics — defending truth in an unbelieving culture.



The Truth about Humanity 2

 **LifeChurch**
www.LifeChurchAZ.net

December 2, 2015
The Wednesday BibleLife Series
Terry R Baughman, Lead Pastor

Anthropology
Doctrine of man
Origin of man,
Image of God,
Original sin,
immaterial vs. Material (body/soul)
Historical development of the issues

A dark grey rectangular background features the silhouettes of a man and a woman holding hands. The man is on the left, wearing a suit, and the woman is on the right, wearing a long, flowing dress. The word "Anthropology" is written in white, sans-serif font across the top of the silhouettes.

Anthropology

ἄνθρωπος / λόγος
anthropos / logos

the study of humankind

Anthropology — the study of humankind
Must start with the origin of humans.



“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 being.”
—Genesis 2:7

The origin of man is vital to our study of humanity.

Genesis 2:7 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 being.

'I AM CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD'

Christian view: Humans are creatures of God,
made in the image of God.

Man is a machine

Valued for contributions

Man is an animal

Different only in degree

Man is a sexual being

Most significant human experience

Man is an economic being

Driven by material needs

Man is a pawn of the universe

No control over his destiny

Man is a free being

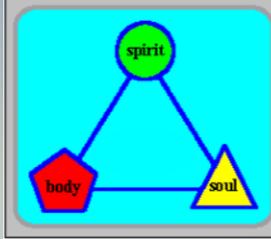
Master of his fate, captain of his soul

Man is a social being

Must interact with other social beings



ANTHROPOLOGY



- *Views as to the make up of the invisible part of man's being:*
 - Dichotomy – body and soul/spirit
 - Trichotomy – body, soul, and spirit
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:23
 - Monistic – essentially one
 - *Body, soul, spirit, heart, mind all refer to the same being*
 - *“holistic” – man as a whole being*

Views as to the make up of the invisible part of man's being:

Dichotomy – body and soul/spirit (where soul and spirit are interchangeable)

Trichotomy – body, soul, and spirit

1 Thessalonians 5:23 seems to suggest this

Monistic – essentially one

Body, soul, spirit, heart, mind all refer to the same being

Body refers to the material part of humans. The other terms refer to the immaterial part of humans.

“holistic” – human as a whole being (“man became a living soul”) (8 souls saved by water — reference to the whole of man, a metaphor of a person)

Another description is the inner man and the outer man — The inner man is redeemed in the new birth while the outer man awaits redemption

Romans 8:23 / 2 Corinthians 4:16

(See Segraves notes, 170, on Hebrews 4:12)

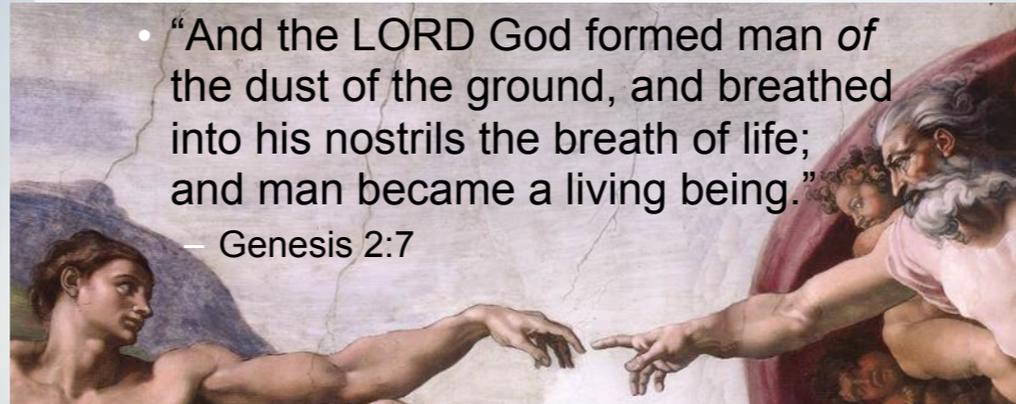


ORIGIN OF THE SOUL

Where does the soul originate?

– *Creationist View*

- Spirit created by God and being placed in the human somewhere between conception and birth



Creationist view:

A new soul is created by God for each child born (orthodox theology)

Problem: When is the spirit placed in the human? If at birth then what's wrong with abortion?

Problem: How is sin imputed to the human race? All are sinners; so does God create each new soul in sin?



ORIGIN OF THE SOUL

– *Pre-existent view*

- All souls were created by God at some point in eternity and are waiting for bodies to be assigned

– View held by:

- Pagan traditions
- Eastern religions
- LDS teaching



Pre-existent view

Pagan religions – not held by any orthodox theologian

Eastern religions have accepted the idea of the “transmigration of the soul” --- this view recognizes the possibility of reincarnation ... Is without scriptural support.

Mormon view – we were all souls out there somewhere waiting bodies.

“We lived before we were born. ...”

“The prophets teach of eternal progression in the family unit. We can be blessed with increasing families in the eternities. This is sometimes referred to as “eternal lives.” (Doctrine and Covenants 132:24, 55).

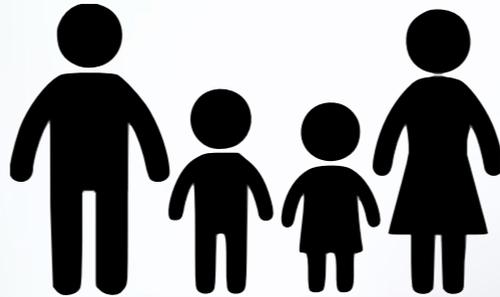
“But you need a church that teaches about the pre-existence, and stresses the importance of good works. ... And that is why being a Mormon is the only choice.” [<http://mormonprophets.org/doctrine/reincarnation-or-pre-existence>]



ORIGIN OF THE SOUL

– Traducian

- Immaterial part communicated to the child by his parents at conception
- *“And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.”*



—Genesis 5:3

Traducian view:

“When god gave man the command and ability to multiply and replenish the earth (Gen 1:28), that reproductive ability was not limited to the physical body. It was the ability to authentically reproduce humanity, including both the material and immaterial parts of man.”

This would explain the communication of the sinful nature to all mankind from our father Adam.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traducian>

The [Church Fathers](#) universally agreed that the soul of [Adam](#) was directly created by God. [Tertullian](#) actively advocated traducianism (that is, the parental generation of souls), while some of the later Fathers — most notably [Saint Augustine](#), at the outbreak of [Pelagianism](#) — began to question the creation by God of individual souls and to incline to the opposite opinion, which seemed to facilitate the explanation of the transmission of [original sin](#). Thus, writing to [St. Jerome](#), St. Augustine said, “If that opinion of the creation of new souls is not opposed to this established article of faith let it be also mine; if it is, let it not be thine.” [Theodorus Abucara](#), [Macarius](#), and [Gregory of Nyssa](#) also favored this view.

Amongst the [Scholastics](#) there were no defenders of traducianism. [Hugh of St. Victor](#) and [Alexander of Hales](#) alone characterize creationism as the more probable opinion. All the other Schoolmen hold creationism as certain and differ only in regard to the censure that should be attached to the opposite error. Accordingly, [Peter Lombard](#) asserted, “The Catholic Church teaches that souls are created at their infusion into the body.” [St. Thomas](#) is more emphatic: “It is heretical to say that the intellectual soul is transmitted by process of generation.”



THE PROBLEM OF SIN

- *What is it?*

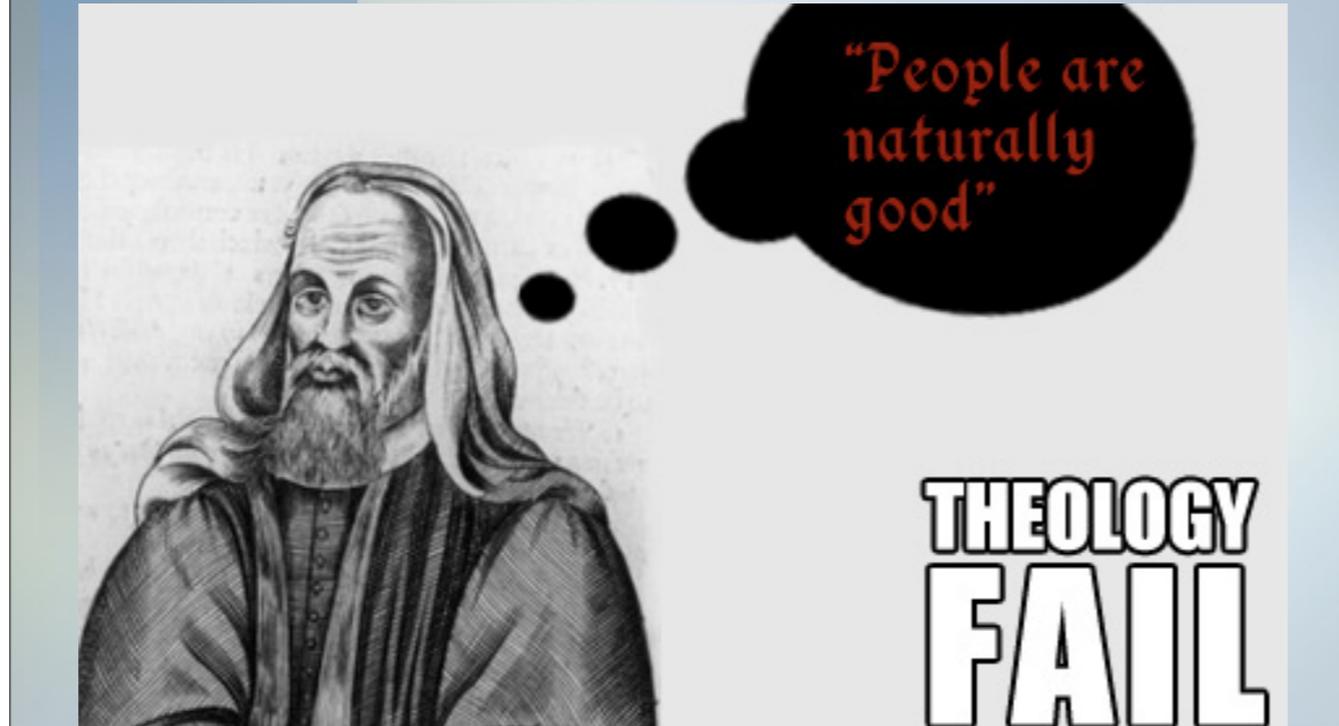
SIN

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
—Romans 3:23



THE PROBLEM OF SIN

- Pelagius (Pelagianism)



The Sin Problem

Pelagius (Pelagianism received its name from Pelagius and designates a heresy of the fifth century, which denied original sin as well as Christian grace.)

-Denied the idea of "original sin"

— God creates a soul for every person, untainted by any corruption or guilt.

— Man could theoretically fulfill God's commands perfectly by his own efforts.



THE PROBLEM OF SIN

- **James Arminius**



- Man received a corrupted nature from Adam.
 - Romans 5:12 “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned”
- He begins life without righteousness, unable to fulfill God’s commands without divine help.
- Man is not culpable for Adam’s sin, but he is liable to punishment.

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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culpability>

In explanations and predictions of human action and inaction culpability is a measure of the degree to which an agent, such as a person, can be held morally or legally responsible.

Culpability marks the dividing line between moral evil, like murder, for which someone may be held responsible and natural evil, like earthquakes, for which no one can be held responsible.

Later, the doctrine of **prevenient grace** was added. This idea is there is a universal benefit of the atonement which removed any culpability and condemnation which may have passed on the entire human race as a result of Adam’s sin.



THE PROBLEM OF SIN



- **John Calvin**

- Adam’s sin was the sin of the entire human race and all are guilty.
- “Federal headship” – Adam represented the entire human race in his sin.
- Another view (held by Augustine) was one of “natural headship”. All mankind was present in the loins of Adam, participating in his sin.

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BIBLICAL TEACHING ABOUT SIN

- *The causes of SIN*
 - Ignorance
 - The Greek word ἄγνοια (*agnoia*) is often used of innocent ignorance
 - An ignorance for which man is apparently responsible
 - Hebrews 9:7 refers to a sacrifice offered both for the priest and the ἀγνόημα (*agnonema*) of the people.

IGNORANCE

NKJ Hebrews 9:7 But into the second part the high priest *went* alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;

-Innocent ignorance (2 Cor 6:9; Gal 1:22)

-An ignorance for which man is apparently responsible

NKJ Ephesians 4:18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

NKJ Acts 3:17 "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did *it* in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers.

NKJ Acts 17:30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,



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 - One can be led astray by evil spirits, by others, or by oneself

"Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am *He*,' and will deceive many." —Mark 13:5-6

ERROR

NKJ Mark 13:5 And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

6 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am *He*,' and will deceive many.

NKJ Galatians 6:7 **Do not be deceived**, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.



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Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, —1 Timothy 4:1

ERROR

Deceived by:

—Evil Spirits

NKJ 1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

—By others

NKJ Ephesians 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

—By oneself

NKJ 1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.



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 - Inattention
 - The Greek word παρακοή (parakoe) “a hearing amiss or disobedience”
 - Disobedience resulting from inattention or the failure to hear correctly

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.
—Romans 5:19

INATTENTION

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NKJ 2 Corinthians 10:6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

NKJ Hebrews 2:2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,
3 how shall we escape if we **neglect** so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*,



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BIBLICAL TEACHING ABOUT SIN

- *The character of SIN*
 - **Missing the Mark**
 - **Irreligion** (absence of righteousness)
 - **Transgression** “to cross over”
 - **Iniquity or lack of integrity**
 - **Rebellion** (failure or refusal to believe)
 - **Treachery** (breaking faith/falling away)
 - **Perversion** (twisting or distortion)
 - **Abomination** (nauseate God)

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

—Romans 3:23

Eight terms for the character of sin, regardless of the cause

-Missing the Mark “a voluntary and culpable mistake.”

NKJ Romans 3:23 for all have **sinned** and **fall short** of the glory of God,

-irreligion (absence of righteousness) breaking the law of God in the broadest sense

NKJ Romans 3:10 As it is written: “There is **none righteous**, no, not one;

-transgression “to cross over” or “to pass by” sins of transgressions, hundreds of times in Scripture.

-Iniquity or lack of integrity (failure to fulfill the standard of righteousness)

-Rebellion “Failure to believe the message, particularly when openly and specially presented, is disobedience or rebellion.” [Erickson]

- Treachery (“breaking faith” or “falling away” – those who turn from what they have know. The sin is essentially that of a traitor.)

NKJ Hebrews 6:6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame.

-Perversion “to bend or twist” twisting or distortion which occurs to those who break God’s commands

-Abomination –practices which nauseate God



BIBLICAL TEACHING ABOUT SIN

- *Biblical Teaching about SIN*
 - Sin results in God's disfavor
 - Sin is universal
 - Sin is communicated to the entire human race as a result of Adam's sin

SIN is
serious

**FOR THE WAGES
OF SIN IS DEATH,**

**BUT THE GIFT
OF GOD IS**



**ETERNAL LIFE
IN CHRIST JESUS
OUR LORD.**

ROMANS 6:23