

**BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE**

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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**Anthropology, Part I**

A Study of Mankind from a Biblical Perspective

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Reasons to Think about Anthropology

- ✓ Mankind is the pinnacle of creation
- ✓ Helps us understand how we relate to our Creator
- ✓ Be able to refute false views of mankind
- ✓ Apply biblical truth to modern issues: abortion, euthanasia, feminism, etc.

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Why This Matters: Christian Worldview



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Origin of Man

- ✓ Creation Account #1 (Gen 1:26–31)
  - ❖ Creation of universe and mankind
  - ❖ Introduces mankind as the pinnacle of creation
  - ❖ Purpose: Be fruitful and multiply; have dominion over the earth
  - ❖ “Then God said” of Gen 1:26 = something distinct and unique
  - ❖ Two genders—Gen 1:27
  - ❖ Gen 1:31—creation (including mankind) “very good”

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Origin of Man

- ✓ Creation Account #2 (Gen 2:7–25)
  - ❖ Emphasizes the way God created humanity
  - ❖ Gen 2:7—divine in-breathing of life
  - ❖ Gen 2:18—only aspect of original creation that is “not good” = solitariness
  - ❖ Gen 2:21–24—distinctiveness of male and female

OTHER Creation Passages: Gen 3:20; Gen 5:1–2; Job 33:6; Ps 8:4–9; Matt 19:4; Acts 17:25–26; Col 1:16

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Purpose of Creation of Mankind: God's Glory

- ✓ Isaiah 43:7
- ✓ Importance of male/female distinction to God's glory
- ✓ Creation of mankind preceded by divine counsel with the Trinity—Gen 1:26

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Views of the Origin of Mankind

- ✓ Atheistic evolution—no supernatural means
- ✓ Theistic evolution—God's supervision
- ✓ Progressive Creationism (Day-age theory)—days of creation = ages
- ✓ Gap Theory—millions of years between Gen 1:1 and 1:2

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Views of the Origin of Mankind

- ✓ Literal 24-Hour Days of Creation
  - ❖ Hebrew for "day" (*yōm*) with a numeral always = 24 hours
  - ❖ "evening and morning"
  - ❖ Sabbath day in Exodus 20 based on 24-hour day assumption
  - ❖ If mankind evolved, he is only a higher animal

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Image of God: Implications

- ✓ Implications for behavior and view of others (James 3:8–9)
- ✓ Implications for justice (Gen 9:6)
- ✓ Image of God affirmed for all persons
- ✓ Basis for human dignity
- ✓ Image of God impaired but not destroyed by sin

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Image of God: Implications

- ✓ Implies ownership by God and accountability to God
- ✓ Jesus Christ the perfect revelation of the image of God
- ✓ Image of God is our common ground and starting point with unbelievers—all humans inherently know they are accountable to God (Rom 1:18ff)

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The Nature of Image of God

- ✓ **View 1: Substantive view**  
same (physical), psychological, spiritual qualities
- ✓ **View 2: Relational view**  
capacity to experience relationships
- ✓ **View 3: Functional view**  
linked to our task—to rule as God rules

“Relate, Create, Dominate” (MacArthur)

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### Unique Aspects of Being in the Image of God

- ✓ Rational thinking / deductive reasoning
- ✓ Creative ability (or creativity)
- ✓ Self-awareness
- ✓ Moral conscience (and guilt)
- ✓ Heart-to-heart relationships
- ✓ Verbal communication
- ✓ Worship
- ✓ Ruling Creation

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### Implications for Current Issues

- ✓ Evolution
- ✓ Animal Rights Movements
- ✓ Environmental Movements
- ✓ Capital Punishment
- ✓ Abortion
- ✓ Racism
- ✓ Feminism
- ✓ Transgenderism / Gender Dysphoria

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### Male and Female

- ✓ Differences:
  - ❖ Physical
  - ❖ Differing roles—equal in essence; different in function
    - Adam created first (1 Tim 2:13–14)
    - Eve a “helper fit for him” (Gen 2:18)
    - Adam named Eve (Gen 2:23)
    - Adam represents human race (1 Cor 15:22)
  - ❖ Aggressive vs. Nurturing
  - ❖ Goal-Oriented vs. Person-Oriented

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### Male and Female

- ✓ Why Male and Female?
  - ❖ Propagation of human race—Gen 1:27-28
  - ❖ Push toward relationships
    - Cure for loneliness (Gen 2:18)
    - Mutual dependence (1 Cor 11:11)
  - ❖ Reflective of the nature of the Trinity

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### Marital Physical Relationship

- ✓ Physical illustration and manifestation of the level of oneness and unity of the Trinity and of God and His people.
- ✓ Symbolize and strengthen marital union (Gen 2:24)
- ✓ Intended only for marriage relationship
- ✓ Deepens commitment of marriage
- ✓ Context of marriage = where children raised
- ✓ Important enough that God commanded this part of marriage (1 Cor 7:3-5)

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