

The Essential Nature of Man (Part 2)

Rocky Wyatt | January 14, 2018

The Origin of the Soul

It is agreed by most that the physical body comes into existence through the process of natural generation.

Since we are composed of both a body and a soul, where does the soul come from?



The Origin of the Soul – Three Views

Preexistence

Creationism

Traducianism



The Origin of the Soul – Preexistence

...the souls of people exist in heaven long before their bodies are conceived in the wombs of their mothers, and that God then brings the soul to earth to be joined with the baby's body as he or she grows in the womb.

Grudem



The Origin of the Soul – Preexistence

This view, which advocates that the human soul has existed previously, has its roots in non-Christian philosophy; it is taught in Hinduism and was also held by Plato, Philo, and Origen. This theory teaches that in a previous existence men were angelic spirits, and as punishment and discipline for sin, they were sent to indwell human bodies.



Enns

The Origin of the Soul – Preexistence

This view has no biblical support and has rightly been rejected by orthodox Christians —Origen excepted.

MacArthur, J., & Mayhue, R. (Eds.). (2017). *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (p. 425). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.



Errors Associated with Preexistence

Mormons believe in a life preceding our existence on earth. Mormons call this the “pre-existence,” “pre-earth-life,” or “premortal existence.”

Before we were born on the earth, we lived in the presence of our Heavenly Father as His spirit children. In this premortal existence, we attended a council with Heavenly Father’s other spirit children. At that council, Heavenly Father presented His great plan of happiness or the “Plan of Salvation, which was ratified by all of us.”



Errors Associated with Preexistence

In Islam, all souls are believed to have been created in adult form (before earthly life) at the same time God created the father of Mankind, Adam. The Quran recounts the story of when the descendants of Adam were brought forth before God to testify that God alone is the Lord of creation and therefore only He is worthy of worship so that on the Day of Judgement, people could not make the excuse that they only worshipped others because they were following the ways of their ancestors...



Errors Associated with Preexistence

God then removed the memory of this event from the minds of Mankind (leaving only an innate awareness that He exists and is One, known as the Fitra) and He decreed at which point each and every human would be born into the physical world.



Creationism – Definition

Creationism teaches that each individual soul is created by God sometime between conception and birth rather than being transmitted from one's ancestors, as the body is.

MacArthur, J., & Mayhue, R. (Eds.). (2017). *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (p. 425). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.



Creationism – Scriptural Support

Genesis 2:7

Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.



Ecclesiastes 12:7

...then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who

Creationism – Scriptural Support

Isaiah 42:5

Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it...

Zechariah 12:1

The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel. Thus declares the LORD who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him...



Creationism – Scriptural Support

Hebrews 12:9

Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?



Arguments for Creationism

The original account of creation points to a marked distinction between the creation of the body and that of the soul.

The immaterial and spiritual, and therefore indivisible nature of the soul of man, generally admitted by all Christians, is clearly recognized by Creationism.



Berkhof

Objections to Creationism

If creationism were true, then God would have been constantly involved in “out of nothing” creation acts since the sixth day of creation. But this notion goes against the fact that God rested from creating on the seventh day (Gen. 2:1–2).

MacArthur, J., & Mayhue, R. (Eds.). (2017). *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (p. 425). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.



Objections to Creationism

It regards the earthly father as begetting only the body of his child,—certainly not the most important part of the child,—and therefore does not account for the re-appearance of the mental and moral traits of the parents in the children.



Berkhof

Objections to Creationism

...there is no scriptural evidence to conclude that while human bodies are created through natural means, souls are created directly by God. The creationist view introduces an unnecessary asymmetrical element into the origin of a human person. While it is true that several verses speak of God making a person's soul or spirit, that is also true for the body. David stated, "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.... My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the womb." (Ps. 139:13-15)



Objections to Creationism

These statements do not mean that the body is created directly by God apart from natural procreation. God is man's Creator, but God also ordained human procreation for the filling of the earth (Gen. 1:28). God uses natural means for procreation, yet he is the Ultimate Cause of the process. As a complex unity of body and soul/spirit, our entire being, including the soul, is a result of the God-ordained procreation process.



Traducianism

Holds that the soul as well as the body of a child are inherited from the baby's mother and father at the time of conception.

Grudem



Traducianism

Traducianists on the one hand deny that the soul is created; and on the other hand, they affirm that it is produced by the law of generation, being as truly derived from the parents as the body. The whole man, soul and body, is begotten.



Hodge

Objections to Traducianism

It is contrary to the philosophical doctrine of the simplicity of the soul. The soul is a pure spiritual substance that does not admit of division. The propagation of the soul would seem to imply that the soul of the child separates itself in some way from the soul of the parents. Moreover, the difficult question arises, whether it originates from the soul of the father or from that of the mother. Or does it come from both; and if so, is it not a compositum?

Berkhof



Arguments for Traducianism

God created man in his own image (Gen. 1:27), and this includes a likeness to God in the amazing ability to “create” other human beings like ourselves.

Grudem



Arguments for Traducianism

Traducianism also explains the heredity factor—the intellect, personality, and emotional similarities of children and their parents.

Enns

The creation of Eve's soul was included in that of Adam, since she is said to be "of the man" (1 Cor. 11:8), and nothing is said about the creation of her soul, Gen. 2:23

Berkhof



Arguments for Traducianism

God ceased from the work of creation after He had made man... Gen. 2:2

Descendants are said to be in the loins of their fathers, Gen. 46:26; Heb. 7:9, 10. Cf. also such passages as John 3:6; 1:13; Rom. 1:3; Acts 17:26.



The Nature of Man – Male and Female

The two genders, male and female, belong to the Creation pattern. Men and women are equally God's image-bearers (Gen. 1:27), and their dignity is equal in consequence. The complementary nature of the genders is meant to lead to enriching cooperation (see Gen. 2:18–23) as their roles are fulfilled not just in marriage, procreation, and family life, but in life's wider activities also.



The Nature of Man – Male and Female

Perception of the unfathomable difference between a person of the other gender and oneself is meant to be a school for learning the practice and joy of appreciation, openness, honor, service, and fidelity, all of which belong to the courtesy that the mysterious reality of the other gender requires.



Packer

The Nature of Man – Male and Female

Genesis 1:27

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.



The Nature of Man – Male and Female

Genesis 2:18–23

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.” Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.



The Nature of Man – Male and Female

The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. The man 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."



The Nature of Man – The Transgender Debate

And then there's this issue of transgenderism which I think is actually a foundational frontier issue on theological anthropology. Because if we can't get the question of what does it mean to be a man or a woman correct, we're going to do a great disservice in trying to cast any broader normative picture for what we think churches and society ought to believe about the nature of humanity...

Andrew T. Walker, author of *God and the Transgender Debate*. An interview with Fred Zaspel



The Nature of Man – The Transgender Debate

Transgenderism Defined:

...what I would say is a much more comprehensive social political cultural identity where someone who experiences that misalignment and incongruence is then taking steps to live and express themselves in accordance with their perceived *gender identity*...



The Nature of Man – The Transgender Debate

Transgenderism Defined:

So, you no longer identify with your biological sex, but you identify with your *gender identity*. So that means people will take on a new name, new pronoun, a new style of dress and maybe even take hormones and have surgery to try to live in accordance with their sense of *gender identity*.

Andrew T. Walker



The Nature of Man – The Transgender Debate

Gender Dysphoria Defined:

...this phenomenon where people experience a conflict or stress at a perceived misalignment between their biological sex and their sense of gender identity. So, what I mean by that is that you have individuals who are born XY chromosome, that's a male, but who might at the psychological level sense themselves to be a female...



The Nature of Man – The Transgender Debate

Gender Dysphoria Defined:

And so, *gender dysphoria* is the sense of stress at that perceived misalignment or incongruence. And it's important, at this point, to say that not everyone who experiences *gender dysphoria* is going to necessarily identify as *transgender*...

Andrew T. Walker



The Nature of Man – The Transgender Debate

Relativism is the approach that all of us in the global West are swimming in, perhaps without realizing it. Relativism says that meaning and truth are relative, so that what is right for one person may be wrong for another person.



Andrew T. Walker, *God and the Transgender Debate*

The Nature of Man – The Transgender Debate

Individualism says everyone gets to write their own script. In many ways, this follows downstream from relativism. What an individual wills or wants is the highest good, and it is wrong to tell someone that his or her choices or beliefs are wrong or immoral.



Andrew T. Walker, *God and the Transgender Debate*

The Nature of Man – The Transgender Debate

Maleness and femaleness, according to the Bible, aren't artificial categories. The differences between men and women reflect the creative intention of being made in God's image. To quote the pastor Kevin DeYoung: "Far from being a mere cultural construct, God depicts the existence of a man and a woman as essential to his creational plan. The two are neither identical nor interchangeable..."



The Nature of Man – The Transgender Debate

But when the woman, who was taken out of man, joins again with the man in sexual union, the two become one flesh (Genesis 2 v 23-24). Dividing the human race into two genders, male and female—one or the other, not both, and not one then the other—is not the invention of Victorian prudes or patriarchal oafs. It was God's idea.



Andrew T. Walker, *God and the Transgender Debate*

The Nature of Man – The Transgender Debate

Deciding that the only reasonable course of action is to affirm every feeling about self-identity that someone has is a blind alley that leads to absurdity. Worse, it is dangerous. In the transgender debate, the argument is that we must accept the claim that a man who identifies as a woman is really a woman. But work that backwards on a different example: Would it be kind to tell someone suffering from...



The Nature of Man – The Transgender Debate

...anorexia that their self-perception of being overweight is correct simply because that is how they perceive themselves? Or would it be kind to tell someone who feels as though their life is not worth living, and whose mind feels those feelings are reasonable, that they should act on what their heart and head are saying? Absolutely not. That would be cruel, not kind.



The Nature of Man – The Transgender Debate

In truth, there is no such thing as “transgender,” because you cannot change your gender. The word exists, but not the reality that it seeks to describe.

Andrew T. Walker, *God and the Transgender Debate*



The Nature of Man – The Transgender Debate

Transgendered men do not become women, nor do transgendered women become men. All (including Bruce Jenner) become feminized men or masculine women, counterfeits or impersonators of the sex with which they identify.



Paul McHugh, Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry at John Hopkins Medical School

Taken from Andrew T. Walker, *God and the Transgender Debate*

The Nature of Man – Male and Female

Genesis 2:24

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Genesis 5:1–2

This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created.



Equality of Personhood

Just as the members of the Trinity are equal in their importance and in their full existence as distinct persons..., so men and women have been created by God to be equal in their importance and personhood. When God created man, he created both “male and female” in his image (Gen. 1:27; 5:1–2). Men and women are made *equally in God’s image* and both men and women reflect God’s character in their lives...



Equality of Personhood

This means that we should see aspects of God's character reflected in each other's lives. If we lived in a society consisting of only Christian men or a society consisting of only Christian women, we would not gain as full a picture of the character of God as when we see both godly men and godly women in their complementary differences together reflecting the beauty of God's character.



Grudem

Equality of Value

But if we are equally in God's image, then certainly men and women are *equally important* to God and *equally valuable* to him. We have equal worth before him for all eternity. The fact that both men and women are said by Scripture to be "in the image of God" should exclude all feelings of pride or inferiority and any idea that one sex is "better" or "worse" than the other...



Equality of Value

In particular, in contrast to many non-Christian cultures and religions, no one should feel proud or superior because he is a man, and no one should feel disappointed or inferior because she is a woman. If God thinks us to be equal in value, then that settles the question, for God's evaluation is the true standard of personal value for all eternity.

Grudem



Quality of Value

1 Peter 3:7

You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.



Quality of Value

1 Corinthians 11:11–12

However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.



Quality of Service

1 Corinthians 12:7

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:11

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.



Quality of Service

1 Peter 4:10

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.



Spiritual Benefits

Acts 2:41

So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Galatians 3:27–28

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all



Distinct Roles Pre-fall

Genesis 2:7

Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

1 Timothy 2:13

For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.



Distinct Roles Pre-fall

Genesis 2:18

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

1 Corinthians 11:9

...for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.



Distinct Roles Pre-fall

The fact that Adam gave names to all the animals (Gen. 2:19–20) indicated Adam's authority over the animal kingdom, because in Old Testament thought the right to name someone implied authority over that person (this is seen both when God gives names to people such as Abraham and Sarah, and when parents give names to their children). Since a Hebrew name designated the character or function of someone, Adam was specifying the characteristics or functions of the animals he named...



Distinct Roles Pre-fall

Therefore when Adam named Eve by saying, “She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man” (Gen. 2:23), it indicated a leadership role on his part as well. This is true before the fall, where Adam names his wife “Woman,” and it is true after the fall as well, when “the man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living” (Gen. 3:20).



Grudem

Distinct Roles Pre-fall

Satan, after he had sinned, was attempting to distort and undermine everything that God had planned and created as good. It is likely that Satan (in the form of a serpent), in approaching Eve first, was attempting to institute a role reversal by tempting Eve to take the leadership in disobeying God (Gen. 3:1). This stands in contrast to the way God approached them, for when God spoke to them, he spoke to Adam first (Gen. 2:15–17; 3:9)...



Distinct Roles Pre-fall

Paul seems to have this role reversal in mind when he says, “Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor” (1 Tim. 2:14). This at least suggests that Satan was trying to undermine the pattern of male leadership that God had established in the marriage by going first to the woman.

Grudem



Distinct Roles Pre-fall

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

1 Timothy 2:14

And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.



Distinct Roles Pre-fall

The Curse Brought a Distortion of Previous Roles, Not the Introduction of New Roles (Grudem)

Genesis 3:18–19

“Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”



Distinct Roles

Just as God spoke to Adam on his own even before Eve was created (Gen. 2:15–17), so, after the fall, even though Eve had sinned first, God *came first to Adam* and called *him* to account for his actions...

Grudem

Genesis 3:9

Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him,
“Where are you?”



Distinct Roles

1 Corinthians 15:22

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

Romans 5:15

But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.



Distinct Roles

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—



Distinct Roles in Marriage

Colossians 3:18–19

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.



Distinct Roles in Marriage

Ephesians 5:22–33

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her...



The Question of Mutual Submission

Ephesians 5:21

...and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

While the household code is introduced by a plea for mutual submissiveness, the submissiveness enjoined in the code itself is not mutual. As in the parallel code in Col. 3:18–4:1, wives are directed to be subject to their husbands, children to be obedient to their parents, and slaves to their masters, but the submissiveness is not reciprocated: husbands are told to love their wives, parents to bring up their children wisely, and masters to treat their slaves considerately. (FF Bruce)



Distinct Roles in Marriage

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her...

Paul does not here, or elsewhere for that matter, exhort husbands to rule over their wives. They are nowhere told, 'Exercise your headship'! Instead, they are urged repeatedly to love their wives (vv. 25, 28, and 33). This will involve each husband showing unceasing care and loving service for his wife's entire well-being. (O'Brien)



Distinct Roles in Marriage

Clearly the biblical picture of a husband laying down his life for his wife is directly opposed to any kind of male tyranny or oppression. The husband is bound by love to ensure that his wife finds their marriage a source of rich fulfillment and joyful service to the Lord. Notably, Paul devotes three times more space to the husband's duty (nine verses) than to the wife's (three verses). ESV



Egalitarianism

Summarized by “Christians for Biblical Equality,” egalitarianism is the viewpoint that there are no biblical gender-based restrictions on ministry in the church.



Complementarianism

The view that men and women are equal in value before God but that some governing and teaching roles in the church are reserved for men.

Grudem, W. A. (2004). Systematic theology: an introduction to biblical doctrine (p. 1238). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House.



Complementarianism – A Biblical Defense

1 Timothy 3:1–2

It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach...



Complementarianism – A Biblical Defense

1 Timothy 3:8–10

Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.



Complementarianism – A Biblical Defense

1 Timothy 2:12–14

But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.



A Common Purpose

Ephesians 5:1–2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.



A Common Purpose

1 Corinthians 10:31

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

