

GoLife100 | Lesson 24

The Nature of Man

BY DON WALKER



Copyright © GoStrategic 2024

THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the root presuppositions of the Christian worldview surrounding the nature of man and how those presuppositions should impact the way we think and live.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE what we believe about the nature of man will affect every aspect of our lives including our disposition, paradigms, and actions.

CASE STUDY:

Your pastor has asked you to review a Sunday-school curriculum that a parent has submitted to him for use in your fellowship, and to provide him with input on the curriculum and a recommendation regarding its use. As you begin your review of the materials titled, "Discovering the Truth Inside You," you are impressed by the way it is put together and the entertaining and challenging activities it contains. The premise of the curriculum is to teach young people to look inside their hearts and find the truth as they go through life.

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

What input and recommendation would you give your pastor?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

What would you share with the parent who recommended the curriculum?

GoLife100 | Lesson 24

The Nature of Man

BY DON WALKER

I. Basic assumptions of a Christian worldview:

- A. The Bible does not need to be proven true.
 - 1. Man's problem is not a lack of evidence that the Bible is true, but rather his rebellion against God.
 - 2. The Bible must be the standard by which we measure all things to determine their correctness.
- B. We must have a "whole" Bible from which we draw truth.
 - 1. Our appreciation of the Bible should start in Genesis and end in Revelation.
 - 2. We must approach the Bible with the premise of continuity.
- C. Man's basic choices are limited.
- D. The mind of man was corrupted by the fall, and unless he has been regenerated, he does not have the ability to think or reason properly.
- E. It is because of man's fallenness that man seeks to conform truth to his desires rather than conforming his desires to the truth.

Define a Term:

NIHILISM *the denial of the existence of any basis for knowledge or truth; the general rejection of customary beliefs in morality, religion, etc.; the belief that there is no meaning or purpose in existence. (Webster's 1828)*

II. Aspects of the nature of man as revealed in the Bible:

- A. Man is created in the image of God ([Psalm 8:4-5](#), [Genesis 1:26-28](#)).
 - 1. Seven aspects that show man was created by God:
 - a. Man, like God, is a spiritual being.
 - b. Man is immortal.
 - c. Just as God is a Creator, man is a creator.
 - d. Man can think and reason, thus the ability to make decisions and, therefore, experience limited freedom.
 - e. Man was created as good.
 - f. Man was created by God to have authority over creation.
 - g. Man is like God in the complexity and range of emotions he can experience.

**Man is not
in need of
rehabilitation.
He needs
regeneration.**

2. Man is different from the rest of creation because God made him to bear His image.
3. Man has significant value apart from anything that he does or does not do.
4. Man is not capable of knowing who he really is or what he was created for, apart from revelation from God.
5. Every unique trait we have as individuals points to a specific aspect of the nature of God.

B. Man is fallen:

1. Man is not basically good, rather he is basically corrupt ([Romans 3:9-12](#); [3:23](#)).
2. The etymology of the word, “sin,” draws upon an archery term describing “missing the target.”
3. Man needs a Savior.

C. Man has been given responsibility for stewarding the earth ([Psalm 115:16](#)).

1. By nature, man has a desire to shape the environment around him.
2. We will destroy the earth apart from God.

III. Examples of how understanding the nature of man impacts the way we live:

A. Education:

1. Education is an incredible tool for empowering man and honing his abilities.
2. Education is incapable of saving man or changing his basic nature.

B. Justice:

1. Many have the idea that criminals need to be rehabilitated, but regeneration is the only answer to man’s fallen condition.
2. We can have justice in our communities by obeying God’s Word regarding how we deal with crime and by looking to the Church to position people in our communities for receiving a saving revelation of Jesus Christ.

C. Freedom of Expression:

1. By nature, man desires to reveal and express who he is.
2. Man in his fallenness cannot help but express that which is perverted.
3. God has given us some basic guidelines in His Word to help us discern which types of expression are acceptable and which will not destroy creativity or originality, but rather direct them.

Memory Verse:

“The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s; But the earth He has given to the children of men.”

—[Psalm 115:16](#)

GoLife100 | Lesson 24

The Nature of Man

BY DON WALKER

Homework:

1. According to the Christian worldview, what makes someone valuable as a person?
2. Explain what our culture's focus on education for prevention of "problems" and rehabilitation for correction of "problems" reveals about the prevailing view of man.
3. If our justice system cannot regenerate people, then what should its goal be?
4. What is a popular issue of debate in our culture which hinges on the nature of man that you would like to address? Why? (Example: Euthanasia)

Copyright © GoStrategic 2024

Listening Test:

1. Man was created morally neutral.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. God's boundaries on creative expression destroy creativity.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. God's Word is like the _____ of a river.
 - a. deepness
 - b. banks/boundaries
 - c. flow
4. _____ means to go back to your former state.
 - a. Rehabilitation
 - b. Regression
 - c. Reversal