

Positon Paper #1

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“No man is an island” John Donne We were created to be in relationship with God. The garden of Eden was a place where Adam and Eve were in the presence of God. The first family came out of the garden. God created mankind with a purpose to rule and have dominion on the earth. He gave them free will. Man’s disobedience resulted in spiritual death. “The manifestation of death was emotional, spiritual, relational, environmental, and ultimately physical. Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together for clothing. (3:7) Awareness of their nakedness was a mark of emotional death, rather than life. When they heard God approaching, they hid from the Lord God. (3:8) The Spiritual relationship that nourished them and should have brought them their greatest joy had become a terror to them.” (CSB, 2019, p5.) The relationship between God and man was estranged. Adam and Eve had to leave the garden of Eden. God was with them always just not in the same way he was from the beginning of time.

God provided a way for man to be close to him once again. He provided this way through the sacrifice of his only son Jesus Christ. It is through this sacrifice that we can be brought near to God once again. “But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” (CSB, 2019, Ephesians 2:13) He gave us free will. We can respond to this act of love by accepting him into our heart. Although we have accepted Christ in our lives to be Lord, we do not become perfect beings. Because of our fallen nature we will always fall short.

“Imago Dei” comes from the Latin version of the Bible, translated to English as “image of God.” (Christianity Today, 2022) When parents have a child if they look just like their father or mother a phrase that may be used is that the individual is the “split image” of their father or mother. What one is implying is that their child physically looks exactly like their parent.

Rightfully if you are married and conceive you would expect the baby to look like one of you. In the Bible we see that in the book of Genesis 1:27 God is referring to man as being made in His image. If we look at this from a human perspective we would think that God is referring to our human form. On the contrary, "This biblical passage does not imply that God is in human form, but that humans are in the image of God in their moral, spiritual, and intellectual essence."

(Christianity Today, 2022)

Man is made of spirit, soul, and body. "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. And may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. "1Thessalonians 5:23. (CSB, 2019, p. 1426) The spirit of man connects with God. The Soul of man is where personality exists. With our soul we think we reason. Our bodies contain our soul, and our soul contains our spirit. ("What Is The Human Spirit According To The Bible?," 2021)

We share with God similar attributes He is a spirit, love, and mercy. When we think of the spirit it is the way in which we connect with God. We can love because we were loved first. (CSB, 2019, 1 John 4:19) As God has shown mercy to us, we too can show mercy to others in our daily lives. "These unique qualities make humans different than all other creatures: rational understanding, creative liberty, the capacity for self-actualization, and the potential for self-transcendence." (Christianity Today, 2022) Our ability to make decisions and rationalize our thoughts were God given. God has given us creative liberty to express in different ways in our lives. God has given each individual what they need to become what God has planned for their life. Lastly, God has given man the ability to rise above any difficult situation faced in life. Some examples of difficulties faced by man are poverty, racism, and lack of resources.

“To borrow a Wesleyan term, counseling can function as a means of grace, a process through which God can pour God’s love into human lives” (Holeman, 2012, p. 16).

Understanding man and how God created him will have an impact on my counseling approach. Man is not perfect, and neither am I. As I sit in the “expert seat” I am given a humbling position to help my client. I am given the opportunity to walk alongside my client in their most difficult dark times. I can exercise some of the attributes given by God such as loving my client, by rendering the best services that I can offer them, as well as showing mercy. It is important for me to treat each client from a unique approach, understanding that each person has different needs. It is my duty to serve them by giving them dignity and respect. Respecting their right to choose. Understand that their addiction does not define who they are. Many individuals feel that they are alone in their struggle. Normalizing what they are going through provides hope amid their present situations.

When we think of an earthen jar it is fragile. An earthen jar is a jar made out of clay made out of dirt. In the same way human beings are fragile. “Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us.” (CSB, 2019, p. 1368) Some ways we demonstrate this frailty is through our emotional, spiritual, relational, and physical needs. When our emotional needs are not met, we tend to look for them in ways that will not satisfy. Some may turn to substance abuse as a way out of pain and suffering. The result of not having our spiritual needs met lead to separation from God. Choosing to live life and not be accountable to God resulting in being frustrated and negative consequence. Man was made to be in relationship with God. Human beings have a need for love and acceptance. Lastly physical needs are vital for the human being to survive. If you love yourself you will take

care of your basic physical needs. The result of not meeting those needs is deterioration spiritually, mentally, and physically. In my counseling approach with the help of the treasure the Holy Spirit that was deposited in me. I will be able to help my clients that come from all walks of life.

References

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