
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES I: THE HUMAN

Creation

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HUMAN?

- Scientific perspectives
- Material constitution
- Body and soul one entity
- Person and body

BODY AND SOUL

- What is the soul?
- How is it said to be immortal?
- What is the body?
- In what way is it ours?
- In what way is it damaged?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HUMAN?

- Matter and spirit
- Microcosm and mediator
- Work in progress

ISSUES IN REGARD TO HUMAN ORIGIN

- How did humans arise?
- Was there an original couple—monogenism?
- Issues if one wants to say there was not.

MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM

- What is the significance of gender?
- How is humanity divided into male and female?
- Is gender eschatologically significant?
- Are gender roles given in nature?

IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD

- What is the image of God in humans?
 - Mind
 - Free will
 - Creator
- What is it to realize a likeness to God?

HUMANS AND CREATION

- Humanity's role in the cosmos
- Humanity's role in perfecting creation
- The legitimacy and the dangers of technology
- What is natural?

HUMAN NATURE

- What is human nature?

- What is the purpose of human life?
- What is ideal humanity?

HUMAN POTENTIAL

- What are we called to be?
- What is our proper relationship to the Son and the Spirit?
- Divinization

Hans Schwarz, *The Human Being: A Theological Anthropology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2013).

CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES: EVIL

Creation

THE REALITY OF EVIL IN THE WORLD

- Defining evil
- Subjective evil
- Objective evil
 - Perspective
 - Criteria
- Is there real evil or is it all a matter of point of view?
- The mystery of God's will and our ability to judge

THEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES

- God is the creator of everything
- Everything that God creates is good
- Matter is good
- Evil cannot be a force in and of itself; it must be a perversion of good
- God cannot be the source of evil
- Evil must arise from perfection
- Matter is not created as a remedy for evil
- Evil is not natural to the world
- The world is corrupted

DEFINING EVIL: PRINCIPLES

- Privation
- Detraction from the good
- Limiting of the good

THE ANGELS REVISITED

- Mediators of the divine presence
- Agents in the Son's creation of the world
 - see Louis Boyer, *Cosmos* (Petersham, MA: St. Bede's Publications), chapters 20-21.

THE FALL OF THE ANGELS

- Source of the angels' fall
- Result
- When
- Corruption of the world

THE SOURCE OF HUMAN EVIL

- Humanity's role in the development and redemption of the cosmos
- Origin of the fall
- Result of the fall

THE ROLE OF PRAYER

- Prayer and divine causality
- Miracles

MAKING SOME SENSE OF EVIL TODAY

- Human agency
- Developing cosmos
- Limited perspective
- Demonic effects

- Dealing with evil in the light of the cross
- Theodicy

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- David Fergusson, *Creation* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014)
- Colin Gunton, *Christ and Creation* (Portland, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2005).