

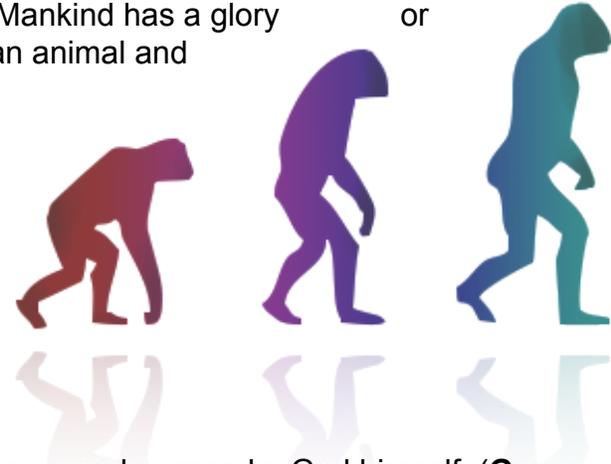
Key Text:
Job 7:17-18

“What is mankind that you make so much of them, that you give them so much attention, that you examine them every morning...?”

What is mankind?

Man is God’s highest creation, for we have been made in God’s own image (Genesis 1:26-30). Unlike any of the other created creatures, man has a fundamental likeness to God and is considered a little lower than the angels in rank. This is important to know because redemption is for mankind and no-one or nothing else. The entire gospel revolves around God’s relationship with mankind. Mankind has a glory or essence that is unique from all other created things. Man is not like an animal and never will be...with the exception that God did create both.

**MAN IS GOD’S HIGHEST
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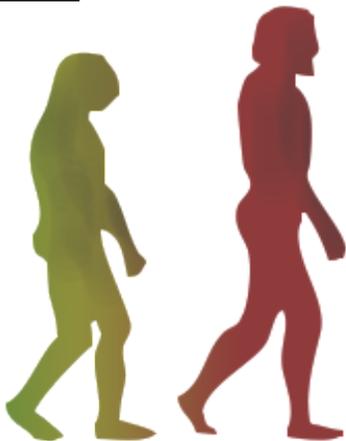
Three Theories of Mankind's Origin

Did mankind evolve from something or was mankind created?

The Bible answers this question directly by describing the creation of man and woman by God himself. (**Gen. 1:26; Job 33:4; Psalm 100:3; Mark 10:6**) This theory is called, “**Theistic Creation**” and this is the **only theory supported by the Bible**. This is a belief that God made mankind in His own likeness according to the Bible’s description. It declares that all nations are of one blood, of the original pair, Adam and Eve (Acts 17:26). Through creation, God has given mankind intrinsic worth, purpose, accountability, and relationship. If we reject the truth of theistic creation you untether man from everything that makes mankind unique & valuable. (Psalm 139:14) First, there is no other explanation offered by science which answers the tough questions of origin while explaining the existence of man’s intellect & soul. Second, any basis for morality and ethics is destroyed without God’s creation leaving us with nothing but survival of the fittest. Now let’s look at two additional theories about man’s origins, Atheistic Evolution, and Theistic Evolution.

Atheistic Evolution: This theory is naturalistic evolution. It states that all life is related and has descended from a common ancestor. The birds and the bananas, the fish and the flowers—are all related, and all things have developed from non-life. **This theory explains creation without any involvement from God.** The Bible says this is the attitude of the fool (Psalm 14:1). The greatest benefit of believing this theory is that it frees an individual from any logical basis for an objective moral standard. This theory removes all of God’s authority over mankind.

Theistic Evolution: This theory is also known as the Weak Anthropic Principle. It states that mankind evolved from natural forces involving physics and chemistry which were all finely-tuned by an intelligent designer. In other words, we are here because some god, somewhere, made sure the conditions were just right to produce a man. On the one hand, this theory casts doubt on the accuracy and reliability of the Bible. On the other hand, this theory unintentionally distorts or corrupts many doctrines throughout scripture making it impossible to accept.



WHY DID GOD CREATE MAN?

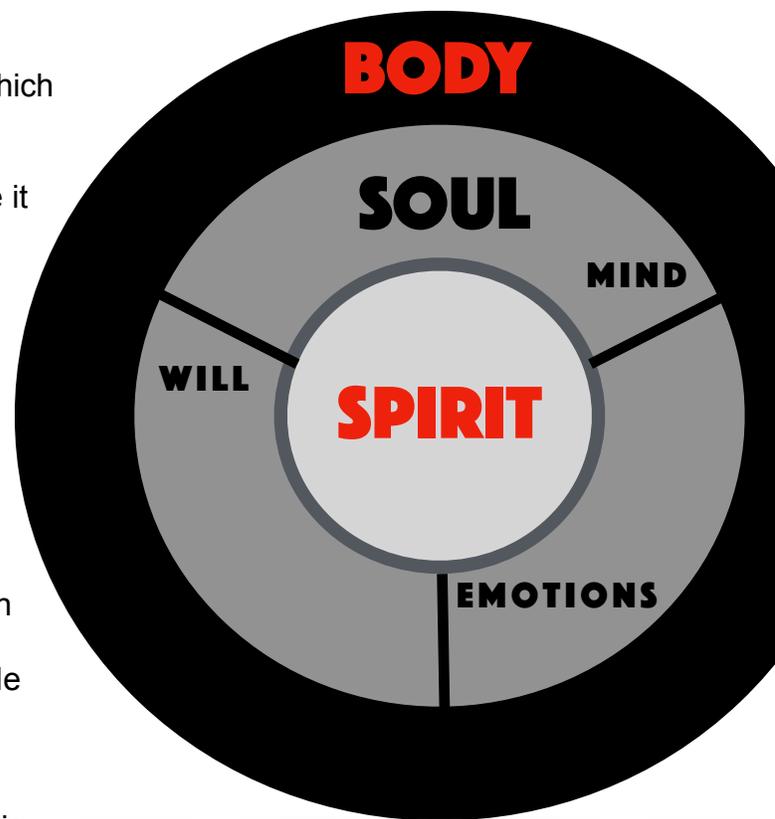
The Bible reveals a four-fold purpose for man's creation which includes: **Relationship**, **Christ-likeness**, **Work**, and **Reproduction**. The easiest way to sum up all four of the reasons is to say that, "God wanted to make man because it pleased Him." (Revelation 4:11). Here is why it is pleasing to God:

Why Relationship? God likes knowing you personally. Proof that all of mankind was created for fellowship and communion with God is first illustrated by Adam and Eve spending time with God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15-17). It's always been God's desire to reveal Himself to us since creation (Romans 1:20). God has designed all of life in such a way that individuals will have the best chance possible of knowing Him. (Acts 17:24-27) When sin separated mankind from God, He had already planned a way of restoring us back to a right relationship with him. He accomplished this through Jesus' death on the cross. (Colossians 1:20; Ephesians 1:4; 2:13)

Why Christ-likeness? God wants mankind to represent His character and heart to the world! God gets honor when mankind possesses His likeness. (Genesis 1:26) This is why God shares aspects of His divine nature, like holiness with mankind (II Peter 1:4-7). Through the power of the Holy Spirit God is transforming us to reflect more of the image of Christ. (Romans 8:28-29; 2 Corinthians 3:18). The more Christ-like we become, the more glory & renown is given to God.

Why Work? Mankind was created to "DO" God's will and good work. His first assignment was to exercise authority over creation. (Gen. 1:26,28) Adam and Eve lost that dominion through rebellion and came under bondage to Satan, sin, sickness, and death. Only through Christ, who has conquered all, can man regain that dominion. As Christians, we are reminded to do everything for the Glory of God. (Matthew 5:16; Colossians 3:23) Within the "body of Christ" individuals are to be equipped for work. Each person has something to do that brings Glory to God.

Why Reproduction? God created man to share some of His creative power. He told Adam and Eve to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" (Genesis 1:28). This certainly speaks of reproduction by natural birth. But God wants more than just bringing babies into existence. The New Testament exhorts us "to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:10). A relationship with God builds Christ's character in us, that we might be able to function in the roles and tasks of Kingdom work, to reproduce transformed lives.



What are the 3 components of man? Here is a brief explanation of each component mentioned in the Bible. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

1) Man is **Spirit**. The spirit of man is invisible and it comes from God and it is the life force of the body. (Gen. 2:7; Psalms 146:4) The Bible also describes the spirit as either being alive in Christ or remaining dead in sin. When this part of man is joined to the Holy Spirit, a person is truly "BORN AGAIN" (Zechariah 12:1; James 2:26; 1 Corinthians 15:22; John 3:4-8)

2) Man is **Soul**. This is the self-conscious part of man, capable of knowing one's self. It is the seat of man's intellect, emotions, and will. Through the soul, man has the ability to reason, to choose, and love. It is important to love God with all of your soul. (Mark 12:30; Psalm 43:5)

3) Man is **Body**. The body is physical and by it we are capable of interacting with our surroundings. This is the world-conscious part of man. Through the five senses of the human body, mankind discovers both expression and limitation. (1 Corinthians 6:13,19) The Body is not eternal but it will be clothed with immortality at the return of Christ.