

December 13, 2023

## Summary & Study Conclusion

### Goal for This Week

To synthesize and summarize how theological anthropology and soteriology directly informs family practice and Christian ethics so that we may be transformed to look more like Christ, from one degree of glory to another (Romans 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18).

### Review the Main Points

Theological Reflection – \_\_\_\_\_

Because theological reflection should always *begin, remain, and end with God*, and because God has revealed Himself to us through His Word to transform us to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom 8:28), theology should not only be intellectual but also *transformational*, which includes our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Doing Theological Anthropology is to \_\_\_\_\_ on what God says about \_\_\_\_\_. It seeks to understand how God made humanity, how God judges' humanity, and how God restores humanity. Remember, theological reflection begins, remains, and ends with God, which is why we must consider God primarily even when we think about humanity.

Doing Soteriology is to \_\_\_\_\_ on what God says about \_\_\_\_\_. It seeks to understand how God saves humanity through the death of Christ on the cross. Again, since theological reflection begins, remains, and ends with God, we must consider God primarily when we think about salvation. We are saved by God, from God, and for God.

### Begin with God, Remain with God, End with God

Begin with God: *Eternality and Aseity*

How does the aseity of God inform the way we understand humanity and salvation?

John 1:3-5 – “All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (4) In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (5) The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

December 13, 2023

Remain with God: *Communion with God/Union with Christ*

How does communion with God/union with Christ inform the way we understand humanity and salvation?

*John 15:4-5* – “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. (5) I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

End with God: *The Beatific Vision*

How does the beatific vision inform the way we understand humanity and salvation?

*1 Corinthians 13:12* – “For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.”

*1 John 3:2-3* – “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (3) And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

**Implications:**

How does our theological reflection on anthropology inform our ethics and family practice?

December 13, 2023

How does our theological reflection on soteriology inform our ethics and family practice?

What is the ultimate purpose in doing theological reflection?

### Summary of Material

- The Image of God Created // Gender Roles (Week 2)
  - Being created in the image of God is the \_\_\_\_\_ for human dignity and worth.
  - Because God is the giver of life, designer, the giver of authority, He determines why He created \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ distinctly. This means God designed men to \_\_\_\_\_ a certain way and He designed women to \_\_\_\_\_ a certain way.
- The Nature of Marriage: Male and Female Covenant (Week 3)
  - Definition: "This position [marriage as covenant] defines marriage *as a sacred bond between a man and a woman instituted by and publicly entered into before God (whether or not this is acknowledged by the married couple), normally consummated by sexual intercourse.*"<sup>1</sup>
  - Marriage as a Covenant roots marriage in \_\_\_\_\_ law.
- The Image of God and the Gift of Singleness (Week 4)
  - The gift of singleness helps transform the church to be more like Christ by \_\_\_\_\_ for others to see, by the way they live, that only in Christ we become children of God (not through physical descent) and it is only in Christ we will have the true and perfect \_\_\_\_\_.
- Human Nature Distorted: Original Sin and Total Depravity (Week 5)
  - We are \_\_\_\_\_ dependent on Christ's righteous because our physical bodies, mind/reason, emotions, and will have all been affected by sin.

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<sup>1</sup> Andreas Köstenberger and David Jones, *God, Marriage, and Family*, 73.

December 13, 2023

- Human Nature Distorted: The Sinfulness of Sin as Exhibited in Marriage and Sexuality (Week 6)
  - Divorce, Adultery, Homosexuality, etc. are distortions of God's design of marriage and sexuality.
- Human Nature Restored Through our Union with Christ: Growing in Personal & Familial Holiness // Role as a Husband/Father, Wife/Mother, etc. (Week 7)
  - Only through union with Christ can we become holy and act the way God has called us to as a Father, Mother, Husband, Wife, Child, etc.
- Human Nature, Morality, and Ethics (Week 8)
  - Our union with Christ informs our \_\_\_\_\_ and the way we raise children.
- Special Issues in the Family (Week 9)
  - Abortion: If the fetus is a child, then it is wrong, whether or not inconvenient. When personhood begins and how you measure it is difficult. Ex. 21:22-25 says it is at some point in the womb that personhood occurs.
  - Discipline and discipleship is the task of \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 3:11-12).
- The Origin of Salvation: Unconditional Election vs. Conditional Election (Week 10)
  - Unconditional election understands God's \_\_\_\_\_ of an individual to be the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_, or reason, of the person's choice to believe.
  - Conditional election sees God's \_\_\_\_\_ of a person to be based or \_\_\_\_\_ on that person's foreseen faith.
- Regeneration, Faith, and Conversion: Responding to God's Call (Week 11)
  - God's general call is unconditional, but our \_\_\_\_\_ it is not. It becomes up to us to decide to receive this unconditional calling from God for salvation.
  - God's effectual call is not only unconditional but also effective, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God applies this salvation to God's individual people.
- Christian Ethics and Family Practice are Derived from Christ's Incarnation (Week 12)
  - Beholding the glory of God, in the face of Christ, by faith as we theologically reflect is how we are transform from one degree of \_\_\_\_\_ to another.

December 13, 2023

**Further Resources:**

Akin, Daniel L. *A Theology For The Church: Revised Edition*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2014.

Chapman, Gary. *Covenant Marriage: Building Communication and Intimacy*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 2003.

Danylak, Barry. *A Biblical Theology of Singleness*. Cambridge, UK: Grove, 2007.

Keller, Timothy and Kathy Keller. *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God*. New York: Penguin Books, 2016.

Köstenberger, Andreas J. and David W. Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.

Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.