

## **TTS Foundations 2023/24:** **[S5] “Maker of Heaven and Earth” (P2/2)**

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## [1] Introducing Theological Anthropology

We're continuing our study in 'protology' – i.e. thinking about our theology of creation. Indeed, we've arrived at one of the most important questions we'll ask.

***"What does it mean to be human?"***

I.e. 'theological anthropology'.

Arguably THE defining debate for the modern Church. Indeed, this question dominates every aspect of human inquiry.

### [1A] The question at the heart of *ethics and morality*.

- **Animal rights:**
  - What is the place of man?
- **Abortion:**
  - What defines human life?
    - 214,256k babies aborted in England and Wales, in 2021 alone.
- **Eugenics, euthanasia (etc.):**
  - What is the value of man?
    - Canada's 'Medical Assistance in Dying' for mental illness in 2021.
    - Belgium + Netherlands have made it possible for child euthanasia.

### [1B] The question at the heart of *political theory*.

- **Nationhood:**
  - How should human beings govern themselves?
    - Re: last ten years – populism, monarchy, etc.
- **Society:**
  - How should human beings organise themselves?
    - Re: the modern obsession with 'equality'.
- **Human rights:**
  - What is owed to man? How? Why?
    - "[Religion has] retreated in Western Europe. In its wake there arose a desire to demonstrate that in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Europe had a self-supporting structure of rights, laws and institutions which could exist even without the sources that had arguably given them life. ... In the place of religion came the ever-inflating language of 'human rights' (itself a concept of Christian origin). We left unresolved the question of whether or not our acquired rights were reliant on beliefs that the continent had ceased to hold, or whether they existed of their own accord" [Douglas Murray]

### [1C] At the heart of *economics*.

- **How do human beings flourish, financially?**
  - Should we focus on the duty of the individual?
    - E.g. Herbert Hoover's 'Rugged Individualism', Adam Smith's market economics, importance of charity, etc.
  - Should we focus on the role of the collective?
    - Re: role of the state – welfare, public spending + GDP.
    - State as 'motherland' or 'fatherland'.

**[1D]** At the heart of *parenting*.

- **What does it mean to be a human creator of other humans?**
  - Rachel in *Friends* – “I can do what I want, I made her!”

**[1E]** At the heart of *pedagogy*.

- **What does it mean to educate little human beings?**
  - Are little humans primarily citizens of the state?
    - Future market participants; British values, etc.
    - (Re: SNP plan for ‘named persons’ – Nicola Sturgeon, “Chief Mammy”.)
  - Or should we think of little humans in different terms?
    - Re: classical Christian education – children primarily as creatures of God.
    - Trivium (grammar, logic, arithmetic) → Quadrivium (arithmetic, geometry, music, astronomy) → Law / Theology.

**[1F]** At the heart of *scientific reflection*.

- **Evolution / evolutionary psychology, and human dignity.**
  - Ultimately animals like everything else?
    - Are we just beasts with consciousness?

**[1G]** At the heart of *culture and art*.

- **Classical instinct:** man as pilgrim in pursuit of alien beauty.
  - I.e. beauty isn’t subjective, it’s objective.
    - It is grounded in a reality beyond our own.
    - The artist’s job is to capture a form of that other-worldly beauty.
    - Hence classical art – re: Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Bach, Pergolesi, Christopher Wren, etc.
- **Post-Modern instinct:** man as mere subject.
  - I.e. there is nothing beyond us.
    - **We are accidents, we are all there is.**
    - The artist’s job is to reflect this chaos, hence modern art – re: Duchamp’s toilet [1917AD].

**[1H]** At the heart of modern *‘hot potato’ subjects*.

- **Gender:**
  - What is masculinity? What is femininity?
  - How do we know what defines a man / woman?
    - (Who gets to decide?)
  - Are men and women essentially different?
    - (Is there a natural hierarchy? Or are the differences mere social constructs?)
  - Do we get to choose our gender?
- **Sexuality:**
  - Is there such a thing as sexual identity or ‘orientation’?
  - Are all expressions of human sexuality to be embraced?
- **Attraction:**
  - What control have we over attraction?
    - (Preference? Feelings? Emotions? Etc.)

- **Technology:**
  - "[We] try to stay rooted, and to keep our devices connected to the humanity that makes us, 'us'. ... Technology should be about human potential; it should be about optimism, and we believe the future should belong to those who use technology to build a better, more inclusive and more hopeful world" [Tim Cook – Apple CEO, Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 2018]
    - Should Apple get to define what makes us, us?
  - ALSO: Artificial Intelligence – will it replace us?
    - What does this say about how we view man? (I.e. defined primarily in terms of what he *does*, rather than what he *is*.)

**The Church has historically had to wrestle with certain landmark questions – e.g. 'What is God?' or 'What is grace?'. Now the modern Church is faced with another – what is man?**

- Having rejected Christianity, western culture is almost comically arrogant when it comes to this question.
  - Re: Sinatra's 'My Way':
    - "Out of the night that covers me / Black as the pit from pole to pole / I thank whatever gods may be / For my unconquerable soul [...] / It matters not how strait the gate / How charged the punishments the scroll / I am the master of my fate / I am the captain of my soul" [William Ernest Henley, *Invictus* (1888)]
    - "In case nobody told you today, You're Special / In case nobody made you believe, You're Special / Well, I will always love you the same, You're Special / I'm so glad that you're still with us / Broken, but damn, you're still perfect" [Lizzo, *Special*]
- AND YET – western culture is also pathetically uncertain.
  - Self-help, mental illness, celebrities, social media, etc.
    - Like Mongaku under the waterfall...

There's a futility (and a chaos) in this that's ripe for satire.

- **Douglas Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*:**
  - The supercomputer Deep Thought –
    - Spends 7.5 million years calculating "the answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe and Everything".
    - The answer turns out to be 42.
    - The problem is no one can remember the Q...!

Inscribed on the Temple of Apollo in Delphi? "**Know thyself**".

The problem? Impossible on our own terms; **we're all doomed to 42.**

**Hence Calvin's famous opener to the *Institutes*:**

"Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. But, while joined by many bonds, which one precedes and brings forth the other is not easy to discern. In the first place, no one can look upon himself without immediately turning his thoughts to the contemplation of God, in whom he 'lives and moves' [Acts 17:28]. For, quite clearly, the mighty gifts with which we are endowed are hardly from ourselves; indeed, our very being is nothing but subsistence in the one God. ... [It] is certain that man never achieves

a clear knowledge of himself unless he has first looked upon God’s face, and then descends from contemplating him to scrutinize himself” [Calvin – Inst. I.I.1/2]

- A sentiment expressed on Bede school sign in Stockton!<sup>1</sup>
  - “*Noverim te, noverim me*” (“[God] I would know you, [for] I would know myself” [Augustine – *Sol.* 2.1.1])
    - One of the great paradoxes of the Christian faith – only by looking outside of ourselves can we learn anything about who + what we are.
- GIGAWAN and the Creator / Creature distinction.
  - Hence why we’ve structured TTS the way we have.

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<sup>1</sup> “To know God is to know yourself” – in Latin, *noscere deum est te noscere*.

## [2] Theological Anthropology – Prelapsarian Man

**REFLECT:** Imagine someone asks you, ‘What does the Bible say about being human?’. What would you say? How would you respond?

- The Bible tells the story of humanity in three chapters:
  - [1] Prelapsarian Man.
  - [2] Postlapsarian Man.
  - [3] New Creation.

**It’s important to maintain the distinction between the ‘chapters’.**

- There *are* indeed some common features.
- But there are also some huge differences.
  - Easy to make too much of the commonalities.
  - Easy to make too much of the differences.
    - **BUT God’s plan for humanity is one story, told over three chapters.**
    - As with any story, we need to read from beginning to end, paying attention to the details along the way.

Let’s start with **Prelapsarian Man**.

**[2A] How were we constituted? – READ: 1 Thess 5:23 – a ‘tripartite constitution’.**

- “*Then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground...*” [Gen 2:7a] – a description of man’s **body**.
  - **Heb:** בָּשָׂר (*basar*) / עָצָם (*eh’tsem*)
  - **Gk:** σάρξ (*sarx*) / σῶμα (*sōma*)
    - **The life of the flesh, matter – corporeal and empirical.**
- “*... and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life...*” [Gen 2:7b] – **spirit**.
  - **Heb:** רוּחַ (*ruach*) / נְשָׁמָה (*neshamah*)
  - **Gk:** πνεῦμα (*pneuma*)
    - **The life of faith, spirituality, worship – invisible and untouchable.**
- “*... and the man became a living being*” [Gen 2:7c] – **soul**.
  - **Heb:** נֶפֶשׁ (*nephesh*) / **Gk:** ψυχή (*psychē*)
    - **The life of reason, intellect, will – comprehension and knowledge.**

**NOTE: few observations are necessary at this point.**

- The tripartite model hasn’t always gone unchallenged.
  - For example, some say spirit + soul = the same reality.
    - The suggestion is that tripartite has more to do with Plato – cf. Augustine, Calvin, *et al.*
- Indeed, some observe that Semitic ways of speaking about the body don’t easily match Greek ways.
  - “*Therefore my heart is glad...*” [Ps 16:9] לֵב (*lēb [lay-v]*)
    - A way of describing both soul and/or spirit – the seat of the affections.

- “Neither is there any rest in my **bones**” [Ps 38:3] עָצָם (eh’tsem) // “my eye is consumed with grief, my soul and my **belly**” [Ps 31:9] בֶּטֶן (beh-ten).
  - In both cases, a way of describing the life of the body.
- “I the LORD test the **mind** [reins]...” [Jer 17:10] כִּלְיָה (kil-yaw’) – literally, the kidneys!
  - Again – emotions, etc.
- Nevertheless, a couple of things are undeniable here.
  - FIRST: Bible distinguishes between ‘body’ + ‘soul / spirit’.
    - **LOOK:** Prov 16:24 / Job 7:11 / Matt 10:28 / Heb 4:12 – and of course, Paul in 1 Thess 5:23.
    - I.e. even if we prefer bipartite, there’s still a difference.
  - SECOND: tripartite model has been how Christians have classically understood the make-up of man.
    - E.g. Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, Gregory of Nazianzus.
    - Also Luther:
      - “Scripture divides man into three parts, as says St Paul (1 Thess. v. 23)... i.e. nature has three portions spirit, soul, and body... In the tabernacle fashioned by Moses there were three separate compartments. The *first* was called the holy of holies: here was God's dwelling place, and in it there was no light. The *second* was called the holy place; here stood a candle-stick with seven arms and seven lamps. The *third* was called the outer court; this lay under the open sky and in the full light of the sun. **In this tabernacle we have a figure of the Christian man.** His *spirit* is the holy of holies, where God dwells in the darkness of faith, where no light is; for he believes that which he neither sees nor feels nor comprehends. His *soul* is the holy place, with its seven lamps, that is, all manner of reason, discrimination, knowledge, and understanding of visible and bodily things. His *body* is the forecourt, open to all, so that men may see his works and manner of life” [Luther – On the Magnificat]

**[2B] What did we possess? – Spiritus Deī and Imago Deī**

- **The breath of God.**
  - Re: Ps 104 and animals – life is born from above, alien.
    - Re: Plato – i.e. not reductive (Re: Chesterton)
- **The image of God – READ: Gen 1:26-7 - DISCUSS: what is the image?**
  - Literal:
    - E.g. Mormons – but John 4:24, God is spirit.
  - Official (from ‘officium’ = duty):
    - Describes man’s rule of the earth.
  - Ontological:
    - Ambrose, Augustine + Calvin – soul as “proper seat”.
    - Athanasius – image descriptive of our rational *Logos*.
  - Relational:
    - Irenaeus, Tertullian, Origen, Aquinas – distinction between image + likeness.
    - Barth – Trinitarian. (Also Augustine in *City of God* XI.26.)

Two further notes on the *Imagō Deī*:

1. **READ:** James 3:8-9

a. **Image of God grounds our ethical obligations.**

- i. "Men are indeed worthy of God's care, if respect be had only to themselves, but since they bear the image of God, he deems himself violated in their person. ... Were this doctrine deeply fixed in our minds, we should be much more reluctant than we are to inflict injuries" [Calvin – Comm. On Gen 9:6]
- ii. Lactantius [c.250-325AD] – "Now I shall speak about what is due to other people, although what is due to people still equally relates to God, since humanity is the image of God" [Divine Institutes]

2. **LOOK:** Gen 1:27

a. **Image of God includes men and women in fellowship.**

- i. Re: 1 Cor 11:7, and general human flourishing.

[2C] What were we called to be?

• **READ:** Psalm 8 – a summary of our creation-vocation

○ **Image Bearers:**

- Priestly, representing God to creation.

○ **Viceroy:**

- Princely, ruling creation on God's behalf.

○ **Stewards:**

- Caretakers of all creation.

○ **Covenant Partners**

- What was the covenant? **LOOK:** Gen 2:15-17
- Covenant of Works – "The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works, wherein life was promised to Adam; and in him to his posterity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience" [West. Conf. VII.2]



### [3] Theological Anthropology – Postlapsarian Man

#### **BUT THEN ... the Fall happened – a desperate tragedy.**

- The Scriptural authors testify to it:
  - **LOOK:** Isa 24:4-13 / **READ:** Rom 3:10-18
- The greatest poets have described it:
  - John Milton:
    - “Up they rose as from unrest; and each the other viewing, Soon found their eyes how opened, and their minds how darkened / Innocence, that as a veil had shadowed them from knowing ill, was gone / Just confidence, and native righteousness, and honour from about them, naked left to guilty shame / He covered, but his robe uncovered more” [*Paradise Lost* IX.1055]
  - Andreas Gryphius: [1616-64, witnessed 30 Years’ War]
    - “What then is man? A house of grim pain / A ball of false hopes, a madness of this time / A theatre of bitter fear filled with keen sorrow / A soon melting snow, a burnt-out candle” [*Human Misery*]
- History bears witness to it:
  - Even in the past hundred years.
    - The Holocaust is perhaps the best-known example.
    - BUT ALSO: Pol Pot + Khmer Rouge (infants killed on the Chankiri tree) / Japan and Unit 731. (Research on unwilling patients, the findings of which the Americans looked the other way to use.)

#### **REFLECT:** How did the Fall change things?

Image Bearers → Broken Mirrors [Irenaeus, Origen, Hilary, Cyril]

Viceroy → Rebels [Rom 1:30]

Stewards → Saboteurs [against God first – hence Social Injustice texts]

Covenant Partners → Covenant Breakers [Hos 6:7]

#### **This is otherwise known as ‘Total Depravity’.**

- Not as bad as we possibly can be – **LOOK:** Gen 20:6.
  - Rather, “there is no health in us” [BCP].
    - Affects all aspects of nature, society + experience, from birth.
- Think again about the Tripartite Constitution:
  - Body: suffering and death.
  - Soul: intellect and will in rebellion.
  - Spirit: we’ve given ourselves over to idols.
    - Again – it’s affected every aspect of human existence.

#### Paul’s description in Rom 3 reflects this comprehensiveness:

- “*Together they have become worthless*” [Rom 3:12]
  - **Sin has corrupted how we form society.**
    - “Sin will pluck on sin” [Richard III – Act 4, Scene 2]
- “*Their throats are opened graves*” [Rom 3:13]
  - **Sin has corrupted our speech.**
- “*Their feet are swift to shed blood*” [Rom 3:14]
  - **Sin has corrupted our relationships with one another.**

- *"There is no fear of God before their eyes"* [Rom 3:18]
  - **Sin has corrupted our relationship with God.**
    - *Incurvatas in sē* – not just selfish, but disposition is oriented towards the self. No eyes / ears; our heads are stuck in our jumpers!
- BUT ALSO – *"There is no one who seeks God"* [Rom 3:11]
  - **IT'S CORRUPTED OUR DESIRES!**
    - Luther (Bondage of the Will) / Calvin (Inst. II.II.8).
    - Canon 1 of Council of Orange, 529AD.

The Fall has made us broken mirrors.

The Fall has made us rebels.

The Fall has made us saboteurs.

The Fall has made us traitors.

The Fall brought disobedience, futility, curse, brokenness, pain.

The Fall brought violence, war, conflict, division.

The Fall brought death and captivity.

Here's the million-dollar question: **how will God put things right?**

- The mistake of many – the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.
  - What was THEN is our goal NOW.
    - God's job is to re-set the balance and then we'll be with him forever, **like Adam.**

**EXCEPT there's a sword in the way.**

We're never going back. Eden is not our destiny. Adam is not our prototype. God's creation in Gen 1-2 is not our salvation template.

*"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; not it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"*

[Isa 43:18-19]

## [4] Theological Anthropology – The New Creation in Christ

**READ:** Isa 65:17-25 / Ezek 36:25-27

We **MUST** understand this to understand creation...

At the heart of theological anthropology

At the heart of Biblical theology

At the heart of the Gospel

**There is not just one creation – but TWO.**

**There is not just one humanity – but TWO.**

**The first creation?** In sin and futility.

**The first humanity?** In Adam, under his headship.

**The second creation?** In Christ.

**The second humanity?** In Christ, under his headship.

- *"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"* [2 Cor 5:17]
- *"[These are the] words of [Christ] the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation"* [Rev 3:14]
- *"[Just] as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous"* [Rom 5:18-19]
- *"He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace"* [Eph 2:15]

**A new creation and a new humanity – IN and FOR Jesus.**

**Christ becomes human FOR us – the True Man, our Second Adam.**

- Image Bearers → Broken Mirrors → Image of the Invisible God
- Viceroy → Rebels → True King
- Stewards → Saboteurs → Perfect Son
- Covenant Partners → Covenant Breakers → The 'Yes' and 'Amen'
  - God on the prophesied Messianic servant: *"I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations"* [Isa 42:6]

**He went through the Garden FOR US but remained obedient.**

- **LOOK:** Rev 21:1-4 – through Christ, this new creation is possible!
  - Not a new Eden, but a new heaven and a new earth!
    - The 'curved in on self' is corrected – beginning on earth (re: Chris sermon on Ps 27), the 'beatific vision'.
    - Our eyes are where they SHOULD be and HAVE to be – this is part of the supreme kindness of heaven.
  - There God will be with us like he never was in Eden.
    - We in him and he in us!

**God's plan is not to 're-set' creation – but to *recreate* it in Christ!**

- Like a chrysalis, the new is better than the old!
  - "Where he displays his healing power / Death and the curse are known no more / In him the tribes of Adam boast / **More** blessings than their father lost!" [Isaac Watts – *Jesus Shall Reign*]

"It is [for us, humanity], that God shall be all in all. ... There now intervenes a new nature, which began in Christ with his birth. ... His humanity which advances towards this goal is ours also. We shall be promoted to a glory conformable to that of him who became man for us, being renewed unto the knowledge of God, and created again in the image of the Creator" [Hilary of Poitiers, *De Trinitate* XI.49]

**A second creation.****With a second humanity.****Under a second Adam!**

*"See, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice"* [Isa 32:1]

Behold, he is about to do a new thing? Do we not perceive it?