



**WEEK OF OCTOBER 15, 2017 - THE DOCTRINE OF MAN**

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Is man basically good, neutral, or evil (take a peek at Romans 3:10-12)? What are the implications of this in your vocation (as a teacher, mother, accountant, etc.)?

3. What does it say about God that virtue exists even in unbelievers?

4. What happens to a society that refuses to recognize sin as a reality? Try to be as specific as you can.

5. Ben talked about man's responsibility for dominion, stewardship, and vocation. Where do you see man's greatest failures in these areas in our culture today? Where do you see those things going very well?

6. What timeline can we expect in a believer's regeneration? Should we expect Christlike perfection at the time of salvation, or expect to be regularly in sin for the rest of our saved life?

7. What would you say is the chief purpose of man? Can you support that scripturally?

8. Give yourself a letter grade in how you are doing in fulfilling that purpose, then list two specific ways you could do better.

9. Do you think it is fair that all of mankind has inherited the sin of one man – Adam (read Romans 5:12)? Why or why not?

10. It is said that while watching a group of prisoners being led to their execution, John Bradford said, “There but for the grace of God go I.” Spend some time in personal reflection about those areas of your life which are most prone to temptation and failure. Then, if you are convicted that it would be helpful and appropriate, approach your Life Group, or a select member of your Life Group, about asking for wisdom, accountability, and support in this area. 9. Use the following questions for personal reflection. Then, if it would be profitable, talk to your group about how they could encourage or support you in these areas:

Some suggested readings for further study and application on the Doctrine of Man:

*The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis is a fictional story of an upper demon mentoring a younger one in the temptation of a man, which reveals much of our weaknesses and temptations, and thus how to strengthen against them.

*Created in God's Image* by Anthony Hoekema is a reformed look at biblical anthropology (the study of man) from an educated but accessible view.

*Counterfeit Gods* by Timothy Keller is a book which highlights the empty promises of some of the greatest temptations, while offering true hope.

*Biblical Foundations for Manhood and Womanhood* is a collection of essays edited by Wayne Grudem on the nature and implications of biblical gender roles.