



VANCOUVER BIBLE INSTITUTE  
*CERTIFIED BIBLICAL COUNSELOR PROGRAM*

MODULE 3

HUMANITY & SIN:  
*TOWARD A BIBLICAL ANTHROPOLOGY*

SYLLABUS



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**SYLLABUS**

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# HUMANITY & SIN: TOWARD A BIBLICAL ANTHROPOLOGY *SYLLABUS*

## **Course Description**

This course is a study of the nature of humanity and sin. We will look at the nature of humanity from a Biblical perspective by examining the pre-fall and post-fall states of man. We will see how these issues were dealt with from a historical perspective by spending much time on the debate between St. Augustine and Pelagius. Attempt will be made to understand the implications of man being created in the image of God. Discussions will take place about the origination of the human soul and about the origin, nature, and effect of sin.

## **Course Objectives**

- To help the student develop a Biblical anthropology and understand the consequences of one's answer to the question, "Why did God create man?"
- To help the students understand what the church has historically believed about the nature and purpose of mankind.
- To equip the student to gain knowledge of the different theories concerning human constitution.
- To equip the student with a greater understanding of what it means to be created in the image of God and how that should affect one's counseling philosophy.
- The student will learn what affect the Fall (**the Rebellion**) had on the mind of man as well as his moral, social, and volitional abilities.
- To equip the student to understand and speak in an informed manner regarding mankind's free will and culpability for sin.
- To introduce the student to "Molinism," an alternative view of free will and the plan of salvation.
- To help the student gain an appreciation of human dignity by learning that while man is not what he was supposed to be, yet he still retains great dignity by reflecting the glory of God.

**Course Textbooks** (Books marked with ♦ are Required Reading)

- ♦ **Study Guide**
- ♦ **Bible**
- ♦ **Pearcey, Nancy R.** *Love Thy Body: Answering Hard Questions about Life and Sexuality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2018.

To counter the hostility toward the human body and biological facts of life driving many of today's headline stories. Many people absorb pre-packaged media mantras on watershed moral issues without being aware of their hurtful real-world implications. Areas discussed include transgenderism, homosexuality, abortion, and the hook-up culture. Nancy Pearcey goes beyond politically correct talking points to offer a riveting exposé of the dehumanizing secularist ethos that shapes critical moral and socio-political issues of our day.

Throughout, Pearcey sets forth a holistic and humane alternative available to all—one that offers reality-oriented solutions that embrace the dignity of the human body and provide a sustainable basis for inalienable human rights.

**Recommended Reading** (All books are eligible as Honors reading.)

**Boyd, Gregory and Paul Eddy**, *Across the Spectrum*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2002.

**Brown, O.J.**, *Heresies*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1988.

**Allen, Ronald B.**, *The Majesty of Man: The Dignity of Being Human*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2000.

**Campbell, Iain D.**, *The Doctrine of Sin*. Fearn, Ross-shire, Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 1976.

**Piper, John and Wayne Grudem**, *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1991.

**Plantinga, Jr., Cornelius**, *A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1995.

**Pratt, Jr., Richard L.**, *Designed for Dignity: What God Has Made It Possible For You To Be*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 2000.

**Sherlock, Charles**, *The Doctrine of Humanity: Contours of Christian Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

**Smith, David L.**, *With Willful Intent: A Theology of Sin*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1994.

# COURSE REQUIREMENTS

## **Summary of Requirements**

- Attend weekly lectures; participate in discussions, online and in class.
- Complete two (2) Case Studies.
- Pass two (2) closed-book Vocabulary Quizzes.
- Course evaluation paper

### *Course Evaluation Paper (10%)*

One, two-page evaluation of the course (due three days following last session).

### *Weekly Discussion Activities—Classroom and Facebook Group (50%)*

Each week between sessions, students will be interacting with each other and the instructor(s) on a private Facebook page about the Discussion Questions for that week's session. Beginning with Week 2, as time allows, students will discuss their online interactions over the previous week's lesson. The goal is to elicit individual and group interaction with the material: Doing theology in community.

### *Case Studies (20%: 10% each)*

The two case studies in the Workbook must be completed according to schedule and in keeping with the instructions contained in each. Case Study #1 is due Week 6; Case Study #2 is due one week following last session.

### *Assignments*

All assignments are to be submitted via Google Doc with an invitation to comment for the professor. Extensions must be pre-approved prior to the relevant due date.

### *Vocabulary Quizzes (20%: 10% each)*

Two closed-book theological vocabulary quizzes will be given during the course of the term (Week 5 and Week 10).

## **Honors**

**Honors Reading:** Read any Recommended Reading list item. Submit a two-to four-page summary/analyses of the work.

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**Honors Project:** Submit an original research paper on any approved topic. Topic must be taken from the lectures, the required reading, or the recommended reading.

### ***Final Course-Grade Meanings***

A-with-Honors = You far exceeded expectations and completed an Honors Project or Reading.

A = There were dimensions to your work that went above the requirements.

B = At VBI, a “B” means that you successfully fulfilled the requirements.

C = You missed some important facets of the material or the assignment.

### ***Contact Information***

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# COURSE OUTLINE

## **The Why of Man**

### *Session 1*

- ✓ Why Did God Create Man?

## **The What of Man**

### *Session 2*

- ✓ Constitution of Man: Monism

### *Session 3*

- ✓ Constitution of Man: Dualism

### *Session Four*

- ✓ Creation of the Soul

### *Session Five*

- ✓ The *Imago Dei* in Man

## **The Fall of Man**

### *Session Six*

- ✓ Original Sin: Pelagianism

### *Session Seven*

- ✓ Original Sin: Augustinianism

### *Session Eight*

- ✓ Free Will – Part 1

### *Session Nine*

- ✓ Free Will – Part 2

## **Humanity and Gender**

### *Session Ten*

- ✓ Egalitarianism
- ✓ Complementarianism

## **Appendices:**

*Appendix 1: Imago Dei*

*Appendix 2: Doctrine of Original Sin*

*Appendix 3: Council of Orange*

*Appendix 4: The Struggle Between Molinism and Reformed Theology*

## READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

SESSION	READING	ASSIGNMENTS	DUE
SESSION 1	Pearcy: Introduction; Chapters 1 & 2		SESSION 2
SESSION 2	Pearcy: Chapters 3 & 4		SESSION 3
SESSION 3	Pearcy: Chapter 5		SESSION 4
SESSION 4	Pearcy: Chapter 6 Appendix 1: <i>Imago dei</i>		SESSION 5
SESSION 5	Pearcy: Chapter 7	Vocab #1	SESSION 6
SESSION 6	Appendix 2: <i>Original Sin</i>	Case Study #1	SESSION 7
SESSION 7	Appendix 3: <i>Council of Orange</i>		SESSION 8
SESSION 8	Appendix 4: <i>The Struggle Between Molinism and Reformed Theology</i>		
SESSION 9			
SESSION 10		Vocab #2 Case Study #2: Course Evaluation Paper	<b>Due in 1 week</b>

Assigned reading can be done at your own pace, but be prepared to work reading assignment information into the class discussion during the next week's session following the SESSION listed.

# CASE STUDY #1

## WHAT IS MAN?

This is to be a “real life” case study. Find a person who is willing to sit and talk to you for thirty minutes to one hour. This person may or may not be a Christian. This might be a family member, a co-worker, someone at the gym, or even someone from church.

With notes in hand, you are to teach what you have learned in the Humanity and Sin class concerning the constitution of humanity.

These are the issues that need to be covered:

Cover these questions before you begin:

1. Do you think that man has an immaterial and material part?
2. If so, what is the immaterial part?
3. When does a person gain this immaterial part (e.g., conception, birth, “age of accountability”?)

After this, you are to go through the different theories about the constitution of man covered in class. (Refer to your notes.) Be sure to explain the significance of the body.

Finally, you are to explain the different theories concerning the creation of the soul. Demonstrate the relevance of this topic to the current issue of abortion.

The object of this assignment is to present the different views of man. Your goal here is not to convince someone of your particular persuasion, but to help people to understand the importance of thinking through these issues.

After you are done, write **300- to 500-word summary** of the encounter and **send it as an attachment to an email** to the Course Instructor of their designated TA. Grades will be based upon the completion of the assignment, *not the effectiveness of the presentation*. Everyone who completes this will receive credit for the case study.

## CASE STUDY #2

### ORIGINAL SIN

This is to be a “real life” case study. Find a person who is willing to sit and talk to you for thirty minutes to one hour. This person may or may not be a Christian. This might be a family member, a co-worker, someone at the gym, or even someone from church.

With notes in hand, you are to teach what you have learned in the Humanity and Sin class concerning the doctrine of the Fall of Man.

Cover these questions before you begin:

1. Do you think that man is essentially good or essentially evil? Why?
2. When you hear the term “original sin” what do you think?
3. In what way do you think the sin of Adam affects us?

After this, go through the different theories about the Fall. Explain the difference between Augustinianism and Pelagianism.

Then, use your notes to explain what the Bible has to say about original sin.

Then ask if they think that it is fair that we are held guilty for the sin of another.

Explain to them the federal headship view as it relates to imputed sin. Use St. Thomas Aquinas’ angel illustration.

The objective of this assignment is to present a logical and biblical argument for the doctrine of the Original Sin. Your goal here is not to convince someone of the truth (although that would be great), but simply to present the arguments clearly.

After you are done, write **300- to 500-word summary** of the encounter and **send it as an attachment to an email** to the Course instructor or their designated TA. Grades will be based upon the completion of the assignment, **not the effectiveness of the presentation**. Everyone who completes this will receive credit for the case study.

## KEY TERMS (1)

- 1. Anthropology:** The study of the purpose and nature of humanity both in its pre-fall and post-fall state.
- 2. Soul Sleep:** The belief that when people die their spirit/soul dies/sleeps also, with the result that they enter into a state of total unconsciousness until the resurrection.
- 3. Monism:** The teaching that the spirit, soul, and body are all essentially the same or that the spirit and soul do not exist without the body. This often goes by the name "soul sleep."
- 4. Dichotomy:** The belief that man consists of two essential parts: material (body) and immaterial (soul/spirit).
- 5. Trichotomy:** The teaching that man is made up of three essential parts: body, soul, and spirit.
- 6. Conditional Unity:** This position affirms both the essential unity of the material and immaterial part of man and the existence of an intermediate state. A person does not have a body and a soul, but is a body and a soul, neither of which alone make up the whole person.
- 7. Gnostic Dualism:** The belief that man's constitution is physical and spiritual. The physical body is a burdensome temporary material confinement out of which we must escape.
- 8. Creationism Theory:** The belief that God creates each person's soul individually and then unites the soul to the body at conception, birth, or sometime in between.
- 9. Pre-existence Theory:** The theory that people's souls/spirits preexisted the creation of their bodies. There may have been some former state in which the person sinned.
- 10. Traducianism:** The belief that the soul is created in and with the body by the parents. While God is the ultimate creator of all things, he uses people intermediately or as secondary causes.
- 11. Imago Dei:** The doctrine that man is created in the image of God.

## KEY TERMS (2)

- 1. Original Sin:** A broad term that refers to the effects that the first sin had on humanity; the “origin” of sin.
- 2. Imputed Sin:** Specifically refers to the guilt or condemnation of the first sin which was imputed to humanity. (Also: original guilt.)
- 3. Inherited Sin:** Specifically refers to the transferal of the sinful nature. (Also: original corruption, original pollution, sinful nature.)
- 4. Personal Sin:** Specifically refers to the sins that are committed by individuals.
- 5. Pelagianism:** The belief that man is inherently good. The Fall not did bring condemnation upon any but Adam. Also, the disposition of the will is unaffected. Man sins as a result of bad examples that began with Adam.
- 6. Augustinianism:** The belief (first posited by Augustine of Hippo in opposition to the Pelagian view of the Fall of Man) after the Fall, mankind is unable to not sin. In other words, due to the corruption of human nature in the Fall, one's will is not free, but rather a slave to sin. As such, every person is born sinful and justly under the condemnation of God. In order for a person to be delivered from this dreadful state (i.e. saved), God must intervene.
- 7. Fatalism:** Belief that a person's life and choices are totally and unalterably the result of an endless series of cause and effects.
- 8. Compatibilism:** Belief that a person's actions are free, being determined by his or her own character and desires.
- 9. Libertarianism:** Belief that a person's actions are uncaused by any coercion whatsoever. The agent is the “first cause” in the effect of his action.
- 10. Egalitarianism:** Position that the Bible does not teach that women are in any sense, functionally or ontologically, subservient to men. Women and men hold ministry positions according to their gifts, not their gender. The principle of mutual submission teaches that husbands and wives are to submit to each other equally.
- 11. Complementarianism:** Position that the Bible teaches that men and women are of equal worth, dignity, and responsibility before God (ontological equality). This view holds that the Bible also teaches that men and women have different roles to play in society, the family, and the church. These roles do not compete but complement each other.

