

**Overview of SYTH 421**  
**The Doctrine of Humanity**

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**I. Doctrine of Creation: Basic Three Principles**

- A. God alone is the source of all there is.
  - 1. Rules out dualism
- B. Creatures are dependent, yet real and good.
  - 1. Rules out pantheism
- C. God creates in freedom and with purpose
  - 1. Freedom rules out that God had to create (it is sheer grace);
  - 2. Purpose rules out that creation is pure chance (both act and content);
  - 3. *Analogia Entis* means “When God creates He cannot create but something that reflects his nature, being, glory.”

**II. Imago Dei (addresses what we were like before and after the fall)**

Definition: We have dominion, male and female, and responsibility.

Biblical Basis: Gen. 1:26; 5:1-3, 9; Psalm 8; James 3:9

	<b>What is the Image of God?</b>	<b>Effects of Fall on Image</b>
<b>Ireaneus</b>	Reason, human freedom	Reason kept; likeness lost
<b>Aquinas</b>	Reason and intellect	Supernatural grace lost; rationality no longer controls will
<b>Calvin</b>	Soul; image involved true righteousness, holiness, & dominion	Image deformed
<b>Barth</b>	“I-thou” relationship -the “thou” can either be God or another human (Gen. 1:27, male and female relations)	Capacity for “I-thou” relationship remains
<b>Brunner</b>	Relationship to God	-Ability to love remains -Actually glorifying God is lost
<b>Berkhower</b>	Relatedness	
<b>*Dr. C. Plantinga</b>	Dominion-created for the purpose of ruling Fruitfulness-Male and Female pass on image Suffering-Christ is the image Social Relations	

- A. All of humanity, whether saved or unsaved, is in the image of God.
- B. We image God in our structure and function; being and doing; gift and task.
  - Structure: rationality; morality; freedom; self-consciousness...
  - Function: dominion; relationality; responsibility; pro-creation...
- C. Calvin: Image survives fall but frightfully deformed.
  - Image-the whole excellence of human nature. True image is Jesus Christ...
- D. Hoekema: Christ as the true image of God (three things)
  - Christ is wholly directed toward God, neighbor and rules over nature.
- E. There is an analogy between divine and human personhood
  - We are more than the image of God ontologically; also relationally.
  - Social analogy from Scripture: John 8, 17. Social analogy of church...
  - The church is the renewed image of God in the world.

- F. Maleness and Femaleness in the Imago Dei:
  1. Body is essential element (fruitfulness; image...)
  2. Point to relational aspect in God.
  3. A paradigm for human relationality – mutual dependence.
- G. We affirm the goodness of the physical body  
(creation; incarnation; resurrection; new heavens and earth)
- H. Doctrine of Intermediate State:  
We are embodied souls (ensouled bodies), but we can exist after death as individual souls. We go to be with the Lord in a provisional state. We wait for the resurrection of the body to assume glorified bodies and become psychosomatic wholes.  
Calvin said rejection of intermediate state rejects union with Christ

### III. Sin (evil = sin + misery)

- A. Original Sin: Rejecting our role – creatures
  1. Historical event → disobedience
  2. Intellect → unbelief and pride; Will → desire to be like God; Affections → an unholy sanctification

Calvin and Hoekema say that original sin, the sinful state and condition in which every human being is born, is transmitted through realism (Adam’s sin corrupted the entire generic human nature) and direct imputation (all were involved in Adam’s sin). We are guilty through Adam, our representative.
- B. Guilt: Our legal state – condemned  
Misery: The consequence of sin – corrupted; polluted.
- C. Theodicy: rationalizing God and evil together; as if God had reasons...  
Apologetic: defending the goodness of God in the face of evil (free will).
- D. Transmission Theories:

Pelagius	We are born innocent; we choose right and wrong.
Realist	We ourselves sinned in Adam. (Augustine; orthodox)
Representative	Adam is our covenantal head; our representative.
Mediate Imputation	Not guilty in Adam but because we are corrupt.

#### IV. Miscellaneous

- A. Theories of Humanity
  - 1. Naturalist – we are just part of nature
  - 2. Anti-Realism – man is the measure of all things
  - 3. Christian – we are dependent on God, yet have a free will
- B. Self-Image: Two dangers to watch out for:
  - 1. having too high a view of yourself
  - 2. having too low a view of yourselfChristians need a renewed picture of self:
  - 1. An honest picture
  - 2. Regard others better than self
  - 3. Know we are justified (not guilty before God) and sanctified (new creatures in Christ).
- C. Origin of Sin: The origin of sin is a riddle. Can't be built in creation, then God is responsible. We don't want God as the source. The answer is we don't know. It comes from unfaithfulness to God.  
Augustine = pride  
Calvin = disobedience (Romans 5)
- D. How does sin smear the image? Sin takes the color, wit, and energy of normal life, presenting it in novel, risky, bold, and dramatic ways that are vital and attractive. Sin is parasitic upon the image.
- E. How does God restrain sin? God restrains sin through common grace. God restrains sin through the image of God in man (our conscience, shame and reason), government (laws, codes of behavior, penalties), and social relations (not wishing to hurt those we care for).