

Questions for Lesson 10: What is Man?

1. How do we know we are not physically created in God's image?

Answer: a) God is a Spirit and not flesh and blood.
b) We would all be identical twins.

2. What things are characteristics of man that are not seen in animals?

Answer: Man worships God; creates art and music; can be taught to think; feels guilt; can be sympathetic; is able to forgive; has altruistic potential; etc.

3. Which of the following words and phrases describe animals?

- a) Able to love
- b) Able to communicate
- c) Loyal
- d) Intelligent.
- e) Able to learn.

Answer: All of them. The kind of things that animals cannot do involves worship, agape kind of love, language (which is different from speech or communication), creative capacities (such as art and music), and ability to be taught to think.

4. How do we know that these things are not a function of our intelligence?

Answer: Mentally challenged humans do these things and intelligent animals do not. We may attribute animal responses as human, but they are not. We talked about guilt in the lesson, but joy and sympathy are similar responses.

8. How do we know that these things are not conditioned environmentally?

Answer: Experiments done with animals in which they are put into a human environment do not show the abilities listed in question 7. There are numerous cases where chimps and dogs have turned on their owners or others close to them with catastrophic results.

9. What implications are involved in saying that all humans are created spiritually in God's image?

Answer: We are all of equal value no matter what our race, sex, economic status, education, or what we have done.

10. If man is said to be totally a product of his genetics and environment, what logical implication about his value follows?

Answer: We are not of equal value. Favored genetic make-up or environmental history elevates one person over another.

11. How does a person's viewpoint of what man is relate to that person's viewpoint on birth defects, abortion, involuntary euthanasia, and mercy killings?

Answer: Our position on these controversial issues will be dependent upon the value we place on humans. If man is only an animal, destroying human life is no more a concern than destroying animal life.

12. What relationships exist between the Godhead and the nature of man?

Answer:

Father - Intellect - Wisdom, planning, artistic creation

Son - Personality - Love, compassion, guilt

Holy Spirit - Soul - Action, Romans 8:16

Each of these parts functions in a specific way, and each is interrelated. You cannot separate your personality from your intellect anymore than you can separate the persons of the Godhead.