BASICS OF CHRISTIANITY - PART 3: MAN

A. INTRODUCTION

What is man? That's the question which confronts each new generation. But the answer very much depends on one's starting point. In global terms, these reduce down to two main approaches:

1. Anthropology – the study of man by man (in the realm of general revelation)
2. Theology – the study of man based on what God man's maker reveals (special revelation).

B. MAN'S ORIGIN

1. Created by God (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7)
   a. Directly – no mediator or delay (evolution)
   b. In God's image – inherent dignity, value and worth
      i. Moral agency – intellect, emotions, will (rationality, spirituality)
      ii. Moral excellency – knowledge (Colossians 3:10); righteousness & holiness (Ephesians 4:24)
   c. God's evaluation: all He made (incl mankind) was very good (Genesis 1:31)
2. Nature of man
   a. Man is a person comprising two integral parts
      i. Body (physical) – from dust of the earth
      ii. Soul or spirit (non-physical) – from breath of God
   b. Man is unique
      i. Animals don't have souls
      ii. Man is the crowning finale of all God's creative acts
      iii. Man is a created creature who mirrors the uncreated Creator
3. Creation Duties
   a. Glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31)
   b. Rule over the earth as God's vice-regent (Genesis 1:26)
   c. Produce children/families (Genesis 1:28; 2:18-25)
   d. Work (Genesis 2:15)

C. MAN'S FALL

1. Creation Covenant
   a. Parties: God & Adam (as corporate representative of the human race)
   b. Condition: perfect obedience to God
   c. Promise: life confirmed
   d. Threat: death (sanction)
   e. Test: tree of the knowledge of good and evil
2. Man broke the covenant (Genesis 3:11-13)
3. Results arising from covenant violation
   a. Sin and misery entered the human experience
      i. Sin: rebellion against God
         - failure to obey/conform to His standard revealed in His law (1 John 3:4)
         - belief that the creature (finite) knows better than the Creator (infinite)
      ii. Sin comprises two components
         - Original sin: Adam's disobedience brought guilt and corruption on all men (Romans 5:12)
            - Every thought/word/action of man is sinful
            - Man's nature post-fall is to sin
         - Actual sin: outworking of original sin in each individual person
            - Doing what God forbids

- Not doing what God command (Romans 3:23)

b. Man lost his original condition of moral excellence but retains moral agency (cf B.1.b above)

c. Separation from God (Genesis 3:8) – now under God's wrath (Romans 1:18) & judgment

d. Sentence of death (Genesis 2:17; Hebrews 9:27)

	LIFE (Union)	**DEATH** (Separation)
Physical	Body + Soul	Body – Soul
Spiritual	Soul + God	Soul – God
Eternal	Body + Soul + God (Heaven)	Body + Soul – God (Hell)