

Understanding Humanity ▪ Genesis 4:25-5:32

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There was an OT scholar who would often say to his students:

“If your heart is not moved and warmed when you read the genealogies, there must be something wrong with your spiritual life.”

- I’ll offer my confession now: My heart is usually not moved and warmed with genealogies. I must have a way to go.
- Just because our heart is not moved and warmed at a genealogy, does not mean that they are not vitally important.

It’s never how we feel about the Word that gives it meaning—it’s the word itself.

- The genealogies in Scripture and Genesis have meaning and are there to teach us.

This is the first major Genealogy in Gen.; the second of 10 major divisions in Gen.

At its core, it teaches us how to understand ourselves.

How to understand our common humanity.

We can understand 4 basic, but vital things: Worship, Gender, Faith, & Death.

Worship (4:26)

- V25 picks up from the tragic ordeal of Cain and Abel. The way these verses are meant to be read is in contrast with the previous.
- If Cain’s family has deteriorated so badly, this gives hope: there would still be godly on the earth.

One thing to note is how Eve points to God’s hand of grace.

“God has appointed”

Seth genealogy = the godly line; family of faith.

- Something happens unique in Seth’s line: calling upon the LORD (v26).

What is that?

—Can be language of prayer (Ps. 50:15)

Psalm 50:15 ESV

and call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

—It marks who are God’s people (Zech. 13:9)

Zechariah 13:9 (ESV)

They will call upon my name,
and I will answer them.
I will say, ‘They are my people’;
and they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’ ”

—It’s marks true worship (Ps. 116:17)

Psalm 116:17 ESV

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.

- Did you see that thanksgiving is tied to this?

That is something I had not considered with Cain’s offering.

*If thanksgiving is such a vital part of a worshiper’s heart, maybe Cain was just not thankful.

—It’s God’s plan for the nations (Zeph 3:9)

Zephaniah 3:9 ESV

“For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples
to a pure speech,
that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD
and serve him with one accord.

Understanding our humanity is to see our duty to call on the name of the Lord.

Prayer. Thanks.

And it motivates missions.

God's plan to fill this earth with a knowledge of him.

Made Male and Female (5:1-2)

- Two things are related from the original creation.

--Image of God

--Male and Female

v1: Made in the likeness of God.

—One thing this passage does is *renew optimism*.

- It's a reminder the even in a fallen world, racked with rebellion—that Adam's offspring still bear the image of God.
- Secondly, we see the distinct genders that God made.
- I want to take some time today and address the topic of transgenderism.

Main Goal: For us to see God's good design, and that trans ideology is a lie and should not be normalized.

- › Since the power comes from God's Word alone—just hear the words from v2.

Rosaria Butterfield speaking with moral clarity that we need: "The idea that men can transition into women, or women into men defy logic, sanity, and history." (Five Lies of our Anti-Christian Age)

- The truth—God made male and female: fixed at birth. It's a good design.
- The lie—Your gender is not fixed, but fluid. Feeling drives truth, not biology...certainly not God.

- Trans ideology/idolatry comes down to two things: disregarding and debasing.

Disregarding God:

Psalm 28:5 (ESV)

Because they do not regard the works of the LORD
or the work of his hands...

results in...a Debased Mind:

Romans 1:28 ESV

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

- Lies are being circulated in our culture, and around the church to normalize.

1) Don't believe the lie in our culture.

Examples:

-The legal decision (Bostock decision) in 2020 made sexual orientation a category of civil rights.

-In 2007 there was only 1 pediatric gender clinic; now there's well over 100.

-One Website hit suggests there are 72 genders.

-Drag Queens showing up at a story time, targeting young children.

-The backlash over the book *Irreversible Damage* in 2020 that pushed back against normalizing trans surgery for minors

- It's pervaded the political, medical, and educational communities.

Don't believe the lies in our culture: This is not normal.

It defies logic, common sense, and history.

Don't believe the lie coming to the church.

It's a lie that our godless culture has embraced. But also the soft evangelical church has as well.

The Dove Awards is an annual ceremony that "recognizes the outstanding achievement in the Christian music industry."

Would you be surprised and shocked if a Drag Queen, transgender person, and a man wearing a dress showed up, who all are part of the “Christian music industry”?

It happened this year.

Dove Awards, not the church—but it’s the music a lot of Christians listen to and are disciplined by.

<https://churchleaders.com/news/461261-im-literally-speechless-skillets-john-cooper-addresses-drag-queens-at-the-dove-awards.html>

- Also, substituting biblical words like repentance, with words like “navigating”.

*Pilots and GPS navigate; sinners repent.

- Or calling LGBTQ people “sexual minorities” in the church.

*It undermines the authority of God’s Word.

Don’t believe the lie.

- › *Transgenderism is a sin that needs forgiveness, repentance, and transformation by the Spirit.*

We are not without hope, because God saves.

The gospel is big and powerful.

The Spirit works.

One final word to a church that broadly “Amens and agrees...”, we certainly need to hold fast to the biblical clarity and not lose the foundation.

But we also *must have true compassion on lost souls —not dehumanize people, but see them as sinners in need of a Savior and reconciliation.*

- › All courage without compassion misses the mark; it’s not Christ.

When God’s grace moves on a person trapped in this sin and they come out—we must be a church that welcomes them back with arms wide open—and see them in Christ as a new creation.

The dark cloud of death

- The genealogy follows a tight pattern:

X fathered Y; had other sons and daughters. X number of years, and he died.

When I was in middle school, I had a classmate who died in a gun accident.

I had not known him because I moved to the school in the middle of the school year.

But I remember something vividly.

One day we had a sub teacher, and he called out the roll. When he came to this particular student's name, there was silence...then one reluctance spoke... "He died".

It was sobering....I can remember a few decades later still.

Death stings.

It's the dark cloud over all our stories.

The dark cloud reminds: You are born Adam's children.

1 Corinthians 15:22 (ESV)

For as in Adam all die

- *With such a smell of death, it's hard to read the genealogy here and have your heart warmed.*

The final, and last but essential part of understanding humanity is knowing: Death comes to all.

For some, it's an accident, or violent, for many it's "natural death".

For all of us, 3 words end our earthly story: "And he died" – "And she died".

Romans 5:12 ESV

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Understanding our humanity is not just that we die...it's why sin came into the world.

Death spread to all.

All have sinned and fall short of his glory.

Walking with God (5:21-23)

The pattern is broken twice:

—Once with Noah...tees us up for next week

—Once with Enoch

- Enoch (v21-23)

Just to make it clear—this is not Cain's son Enoch (4:17)...just like we have more than one John at TRB (even on staff)

- Enoch is the exception to the two ways

He lived a short life (365 years!) He did not die.

- Somehow, he did not experience a physical death, but was transported directly into the presence of God.

Twice it says Enoch walked with God.

Ok, here is the where a genealogy can indeed warm the heart and stir the soul.

If all the info is ____ is the father of _____ , but then we hear of one man who stands out who *walks with God*, which makes him unique.

—Walking with God is a life pleasing to God; a life of faith.

—Modeled by the ideal priest:

Malachi 2:6 ESV

True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity.

If you want concrete marks of this kind of life, it's found here.

—Instruction on lips (Word of God)

—Innocence, purity of life

—Peace; things are in harmony

—Uprightness

—Turning others from sin

Many people just live...few walk with God.

-We can be misled and think the best life is to retire early and live long on leisure.

-We can be misled and think that just living to a ripe long age is what's best.

› But what's really best is walking with God.

If your name were to be in the Bible, for many eyes from people all over the world to read, would it say next to it: *He walked with God*, or *She walked with God*?

*No higher compliment can be paid.

For those who walk in faith...one thing does not have the final word: Death.

Does this describe you?

Even if it does not perfectly (because know no one does), we know there was One who walked with God perfectly...and did so on our behalf.

› But unlike Enoch... Jesus Christ did not escape death, but met it head on.

Hebrews 2:9 (ESV)

But we see him... namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Conclusion:

So now, I think we can read a genealogy—and have our hearts warmed.

Because it's not just a list of names.

But leads us to hope in Christ.

Let's close with words from the Heidelberg catechism.

They inspire our faith, worship, and walk.

Heidelberg Catechism Question 1

Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.