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**A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
FOUNDED OCTOBER, 1984**

WHAT IS MAN

STUDY GUIDE



WHAT IS MAN

SCRIPTURE READING

Job 7:17

What is man, that Thou shouldest magnify him? and that Thou shouldest set Thine heart upon him?

Psalms 8:4

What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that Thou visitest him?

Psalms 144:3

Lord, what is man, that Thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that Thou makest account of him!

Hebrews 2:6

But one in a certain place testified, saying, "What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that Thou visitest him?"

THEME

Knowing the role of man will assist us in understanding God's purpose for man. We must live in submission to God, thereby following His divine order and fulfilling His purpose for our lives.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. From creation there is a divine order given unto us by God which consists of laws, principles, and authority.
- B. God's divine order must be followed if we are to be successful for God.
- C. We will not effectively "reach the world" until the Church submits to God's order.
- D. The Church will not submit to God's order until the home submits to God's order.

- E. The homes will not submit to God's order until the individuals submit to God's order.
- F. Individuals will not submit to God's order until they submit to the Word of God.
- G. One must know God's order before he can submit to God's order; therefore, it is vital that we read and study the Word of God.
- H. Submission is an act of the will; therefore, each individual is personally responsible for his actions.
- I. God has a plan and purpose for each of our lives, but without a clear understanding of God's creation of man, we probably will not pursue His plans and purposes.
- J. Since first things must come first, it is important to find out what man is, so that we can know God's purpose for man.

II. MAN DEFINED

- A. There are three Hebrew words used for **man** that will give us a general overview of man by word definition.
 - 1. The Hebrew word *adam* is translated as both Adam and man in the KJV of the Bible. *Adam* means ruddy or human being. (Genesis 1:26-27)
 - 2. The Hebrew word *iysh* is also translated as man in the KJV of the Bible. This word defines man as an individual; specifically a male. (Genesis 2:23)
 - 3. *Enowsh* is another Hebrew word which is translated as man in the KJV of the Bible; it means a mortal. (Psalm 8:4a)
- B. There are two Greek words used for **man** that will give us a general overview of man by word definition.
 - 1. *Aner* is one of the Greek words which is translated as man in the KJV of the Bible. *Aner* is defined as a man; or an individual male. (I Corinthians 11:3)
 - 2. The Greek word *anthropos* is also translated as man in the KJV of the Bible. *Anthropos* is defined as man-faced; or human being. (I Corinthians 11:28)

- C. When referring to man, we can refer to either a male individual or to human beings in general.
- D. To obtain a clearer understanding of man, we must look separately at man, the human being, and man, the male species.

III. MAN, THE HUMAN BEING

- A. The Hebrew word *adam* and the Greek word *anthropos* refer to man as a human being.
- B. Reference to man as a human being can mean more than one thing.
 - 1. Man is mortal; he is subject to physical death.
 - 2. Man is a three-part being: spirit; soul; and body.
 - 3. Man is the creation of God.
 - 4. Man is the temple or habitation of God on earth, a truth which must not be overlooked.
 - a. God does not dwell in man-made temples. (Acts 7:48; Acts 17:24)
 - b. God dwells in men who make up His temple. (Ephesians 2:19-22; I Peter 2:3-10; I Corinthians 3:16-17; I Corinthians 6:19-20; II Corinthians 6:16)
 - (1) We are the temple of God. (II Corinthians 6:16)
 - (2) We must worship God in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)
 - (3) Each one of us is a "lively stone." (I Peter 2:5)
 - (4) We are to offer up spiritual sacrifices. (I Peter 2:5)
 - (5) We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a peculiar people. (I Peter 2:9)
 - (6) We are to glorify God in our bodies, which have been purchased by God with the blood of Jesus. (I Corinthians 6:20)

(7) Man is a being who is to be indwelt by God's Spirit, thereby making man the temple of the living God.

c. Man must not become a desecrated temple. (Ezekiel 8)

d. The temple of God, which is made up of men, must be assembled by the Holy Spirit; He will assemble it according to God's pattern. (Exodus 25:9)

(1) Deviation from God's pattern is an abomination to God. (II Kings 16:10-16)

(a) Too often God's pattern and order have been violated.

(b) Man's desires have been substituted for God's order.

(c) Externally, man appears to be worshipping God, but his heart is far from Him.

(d) Generally speaking, the Church has forsaken God.

(e) When the Church forsakes God, God moves out of the Holy Place.

(f) God purges the sons of Levi; He begins in the pulpit.

(g) The iniquity of the churches throughout the world is great, but thanks be unto God for the faithful remnant who follow God with their whole heart.

(h) Each of us is accountable to God; therefore, it is vital that we allow God to place us in the position that He wants us so that our gifts can be utilized for His glory.

(i) God is setting His house in order; He must have the preeminence.

(j) We must fix our eyes upon Jesus.

(k) We must hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

(l) God **will** set His House in order. Those who refuse to submit to God's order will have no part in His house.

(2) What is man? He is the habitation of God.

IV. MAN, THE MALE

A. The Hebrew word *iysh* and the Greek word *aner* refer to man as the male.

B. What is man, the male?

1. Adam, the male, was the beginning of the human race.

2. It is to man, the male, that God has given the charge to guard and protect. (Genesis 2:15)

3. Generally speaking, the male is the physically strong one.

4. The man, as male, can be husband and father.

C. Man, the husband, is a position ordained by God.

1. The husband has specific obligations to his wife.

a. He is to cleave to her. (Genesis 2:24)

b. He is to rejoice with her. (Proverbs 5:18)

c. He is to be satisfied with her. (Proverbs 5:19)

d. He is to love (*agapao*) his wife. (Ephesians 5:25-29)

e. The husband is to give honor to his wife or esteem his wife as the weaker vessel. (I Peter 3:7)

f. He must provide for his wife. (I Timothy 5:8)

2. The husband has a specific role to fill.

a. He is the head of the wife. (I Corinthians 11 & Ephesians 5:23)

- b. He is to care for his wife following Christ's example. (Ephesians 5)
- c. He should be the leader in all spiritual matters of the home (study, prayer, tithe, etc.).
- d. The husband must submit to his "Head" in order to be a fit "head" himself.
- e. A husband is not a father; therefore, he cannot assume the father's role.
- f. The husband's role is to provide for, protect, and lead.
- g. The husband's role is one of protecting and providing rather than correcting and punishing.

D. Man, the father, is also a position ordained by God.

- 1. In the home, the father should be an example of the heavenly Father.
- 2. He should be the priest of the home.
- 3. He should be seen as one worthy of honor.
- 4. He should be the strong one of the house.
- 5. He should be the one to whom problems are referred when they arise in the family.
- 6. Man, the father, will never understand the true father's role until he understands the role of his heavenly Father.
- 7. He is responsible for the teaching and training and for the correction and punishment of the children. (This is not an option; it is a command.)
- 8. The father must provide for the family and see to it that family needs are met.
 - a. He must provide food, clothing, and shelter.
 - b. He must provide a good name and a good environment for his family.

- E. There is a definite contrast between the roles of a husband and father.
 - 1. The husband has no right or authority to whip his wife.
 - 2. The father has the authority and responsibility of disciplining and correcting his children.
 - 3. The husband, not the father, is the head of the house.
 - 4. Marriage releases both husband and wife from the jurisdiction of their parents.
 - 5. The wife must refer to her husband, not to her father.
 - 6. The children refer to their parents; husbands and wives do not.

- F. The Hebrew and Greek languages are very explicit in the use of the word “man.”
 - 1. *Aner* is used for husband in the New Testament every time, except in Romans 7:2 and Titus 2:4.
 - a. In Romans 7:2, the Greek word *hupandros* is translated as man. *Hupandros* is defined as in subjection under a man; a married woman.
 - b. In Titus 2:4, the Greek word *philandros* is translated as man. The definition of *philandros* is fond of man; affectionate, as a wife.
 - 2. In I Corinthians 11:3,4,7,8,9,11,12, and 14, the Greek word *aner* is used.
 - 3. In I Corinthians 11:28, the Greek word *anthropos* is used.
 - 4. In I Timothy 2:12, the Greek word *aner* is used.

V. SUMMARY

- A. Man is referred to as a mortal, a human being and a male.
- B. Man, the human being, refers to the human race in general.

- C. Man, the male, refers to the individual man who may be a husband and/or father.
- D. Man is the habitation of God.

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. Man is the creation and handiwork of God.
- B. Man was placed on earth by God for the purpose of ruling the earth for God.
- C. We must learn and understand our reason for being so that we can accomplish God's plan and purpose for our lives.
- D. What is man? He should be one who totally adheres to the Word of God. He should be one who will become the Word made manifest in the flesh, doing God's will in earth as it is in heaven.
- E. Men are shirking their responsibilities.
- F. We must have a true recognition of man, his functions, and his reason for being in order to live productive lives for God.