

# Doctrine of Humanity: What are we?

04.04.12

Systematic Theology  
Genesis 1:26-27

# What Does it Mean to be Human?

- <http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2008/06/what-does-it-me/>

# 4 Views on Humanness

1) Humans as Machines - Views persons based upon their productivity.

“They are of value as long as they are useful” - Erickson, 156

“Augustine said, we should *love* people and *use* things, not vice versa. Those who use people and love things are doing something profoundly immoral because they are not recognizing the inherent worth and dignity of other persons, who are not mere things to be used.” - William Lane Craig

<http://www.reasonablefaith.org/abortion-and-presidential-politics#ixzz1r5uSS1vF>

# Amos 5:11

- *Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.*

## 2) Humans as Animals

- Humans are merely “higher animals”
- Apply the findings of animal experiments to humans (humans have no soul/spirit).
  - Positive reinforcement
  - Negative reinforcement
- No “sanctity” of human life

Argument: There's plenty of humans already!  
We should be concerned about  
“diversification of species,” not “speciesism”  
in favor of only humans!

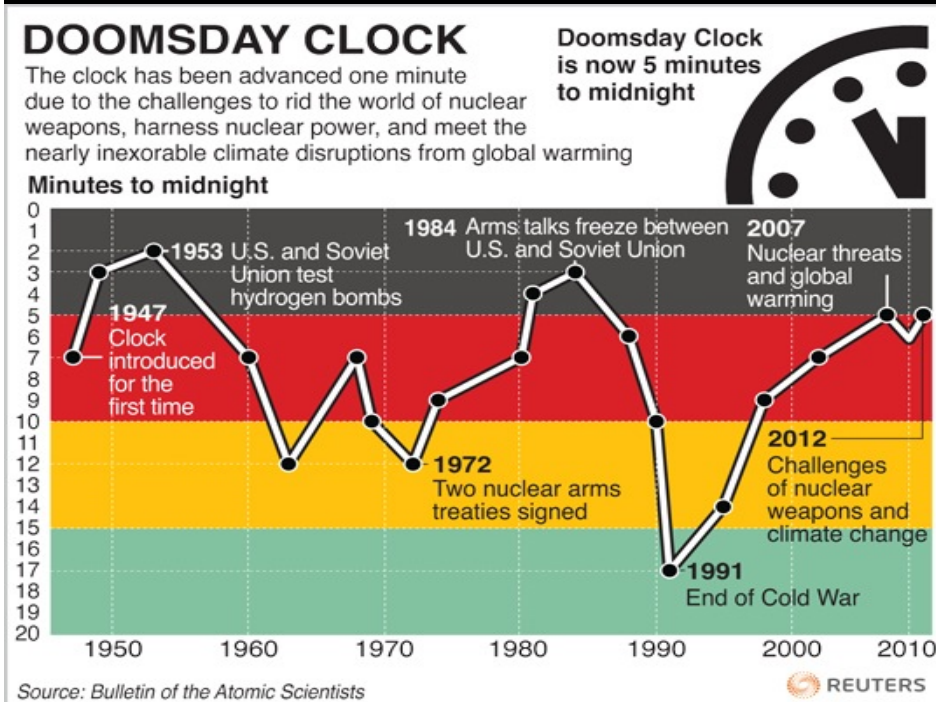
### 3) Humans as “Pawns of the Universe”

- We are the pawns of Fate/Luck/Blind Chance/world politics
  - Conspiracy theories
- “All those who hold that humans are basically pawns at the mercy of the universe are gripped by a similar sense of helplessness and resignation.” - Erickson, 157.

\*Punishment of Sisyphus

# *God's sovereignty & its effect on how we view the future*

## 2) Western philosophy: History & the future is doomed - Pessimism



## 4) Humans as creatures of God in the image of God

- a. Not through random processes but through a conscious act of God's will.
- b. Thus, there is a point and purpose of human existence.
- c. The point and purpose is found in the intention of the Creator.

*"To love God and enjoy Him forever."*

*"Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13*



## 4) Humans as creatures of God in the image of God

d. God is eternal who created humans  
with an eternal future.

\*Finite beginning, eternal future.

# How would you answer?

Q#1 What is “good” for humans?

Q#2 Should the purpose of our life be about achieving “happiness”?

Q# How should we speak to our culture that experiences disillusionment & depression?

# Action Points

- 1) Let us never think that we exist independently
- 2) Let us act as stewards/managers of God's creation
- 3) Let our "human limits" cause us to rely upon God's limitlessness
- 4) Let us gain our joy from the knowledge of God