



UNITY OF MAN

Man is the most numerous of all the giant forms of life. He is considered large when all of the creatures on earth are compared for size. Obviously, whales, elephants, and hippopotamuses are larger than man, but very few creatures attain their dimensions. Most living things are much smaller than man. Some are so small they can be seen only through a microscope.

Mankind is distinct from all other forms of life. He is the only being who walks upright, manufactures the things he needs to help him in life, writes, and worships God. Most importantly, he is the only being who is created in the image of God. But differences also exist between the many groups of people scattered over the earth. They differ in skin color, hair color and texture, language characteristics, daily activities, and many other ways. Yet, as *man*, people are very much the same.

In this section of the unit, you will study the nature of man, what he is like as a physical being. You will learn about the ways all people are alike and how certain physical differences came about.

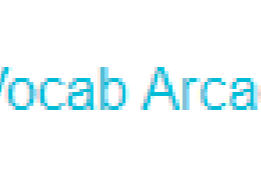
Here is your goal for this lesson:

- Describe the ways in which all people are alike

VO·CAB·U·LAR·Y

VOCABULARY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bipedal	Having two feet.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> confound	Confuse.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> coordination	Working well together.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> extremities	External members away from the trunk.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> genus	A group of similar things.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> manipulate	To handle skillfully.



Vocab Arcade

All people wear a cultural "skin." That is, they cover themselves with specific styles of clothing, decorations, and colors; they speak a specific language and eat specific foods. The cultural "skin" makes one group of people appear to be different from all other groups. But beneath that covering, people are very much alike. People have a common origin. All are composed of the same material and share a common structure and image. No human group is without a language. Every person shares a common inheritance. All humans are members of the same family--man.

Common origin. The source of all creation is God. After God had created the earth and made the plants and animals, He created man in Genesis 1:27: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." After creating the first man and woman, God gave them the responsibility for producing more people. On the day they were created, God said to them in Genesis 1:28: "... Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" All people who have ever lived have come from Adam and Eve. Adam acknowledged the common origin of all people when he named his wife Eve (Genesis 3:20), "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living."

Common substance. The body of every person is composed of materials commonly found in the earth. The Bible says in Genesis 2:7 that man is made of dust: "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Because we have all come from Adam who was formed out of dust, our bodies are like his in substance. The material of which we are made is not easily recognized while we are alive. However, when our bodies die, their real substance is known. In Ecclesiastes 3:20, Solomon said concerning man, "All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again."

Memorize Genesis 2:7!



Common structure. All human beings have similar physical structures. Our bodies have paired *extremities*: two feet, two legs, two hands, two arms, two ears, two eyes, and two nostrils. We are *bipedal*, made to walk and run upright without using hands to move about. Each hand has an opposable thumb and is formed for grasping and *manipulating* objects.

Quick *coordination* between our eyes and hands is controlled by our brains. Our internal organs are alike in location and function. We all have an internal skeleton that is composed of 206 bones. Indeed, the only significant structural difference between people is the difference of being male and female.

When God created mankind, He created him as male and female. The difference between a male and a female is not a difference in kind; both are "man." This aspect of the nature of man is taught in Genesis 5:2, where God calls both male and female *man*: "Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created." The name Adam means *man*, or *mankind*.

Common image. According to the Bible (Genesis 1:27), "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Being made in God's image gives man great value in God's world. In Genesis 9:6, God's estimation of man's value is seen: "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." The value of man is also seen in his relation to the rest of God's creation. The Psalmist, David, speaks of man in these words in Psalm 8:4-8, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet. All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field, the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas." God, Who created all things, allows those in His image to rule over what He has made. The Hebrew word for *image* means *shadow* and refers to the likeness of something. A person's shadow on the ground has a likeness to that person, but the shadow is not exactly the same as the person. The image of God in varying degrees is seen in all mankind. Like God, man can be conscious of himself and know himself as a person. He has a sense of moral responsibility--he can know good and evil. He can exercise grace by giving to others some of the things given to him.

Question #1 Matching

Show Answer

Match these vocabulary words with their definitions.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. having two feet | <input type="checkbox"/> extremities |
| 2. external members away from the trunk | <input type="checkbox"/> bipedal |
| 3. working well together | <input type="checkbox"/> coordination |
| 4. confuse | <input type="checkbox"/> confound |
| 5. to handle skillfully | <input type="checkbox"/> genus |
| 6. a group of similar things | <input type="checkbox"/> manipulate |

Question #2 TrueFalse

Show Answer

The mother of all people was Mary.

- True
- False

Question #3 MultipleChoice

Show Answer

The bodies of all people are composed of common elements described in the Bible as _____.

- atoms
- dust
- particles
- shadows

Question #4 TextMultipleChoice

Show Answer

In Genesis 5:2, both male and female are called _____.

Question #5 TrueFalse

Show Answer

Man has value because he was made in the image of the Lord.

- True
- False

Common language. Many different sounds can be made by the human voice. Within a social group, those sounds associated with specific meanings are vocal symbols, called words. An organized set of words expresses a thought. The act of sending and receiving thoughts through word symbols is language. The Bible teaches in Genesis 11:1 that at one time, "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech." When clear communication exists in a society, much work can be done. Without clear communication, a society cannot function effectively. When people had one language and their activities began to displease God, He *confounded* their language. When they could no longer understand one another, they could no longer work together. Man's single society scattered, and their activity that displeased God ceased.

Every language has meaning for its own society, and every society in the world has a meaningful language. A common language does not exist now for the whole world. Each society has its own language, or communication system. The apostle Paul wrote about the differences in language, "There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me." (1 Corinthians 14:10-11)

Question #6 TrueFalse

Show Answer

Mankind has never had a common language.

- True
- False

Question #7 TrueFalse

Show Answer

Clear communication helps a society stay together.

- True
- False

Common heritage. All mankind is descended from Adam and partakes of his heritage. The Bible describes Adam's heritage to us in Romans 5:12: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death everlasting upon all men, for that all have sinned." We have inherited sin and death from Adam. An alternative of everlasting life is offered, and this comes only through faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ. The heritage of Adam is inherited; the heritage of Jesus Christ is a gift received. The two heritages available to man are quite clearly presented in John 3:36, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Common kind. Scientists have classified man as belonging to the *genus Homo*, species *sapien*, and the sub-species *sapien*. Although man today is separated into several races, each race belongs to the species *sapien*. Technically, man is classified as *Homo sapien sapien*. The Bible does not use the term *species*, but it does teach that all people are of the same "kind." The Apostle Paul declared this truth in Acts 17:26: "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation,"

The basis for determining which living things should belong to the same species, or kind, is their ability to have fertile offspring. These offspring are also able to mate and have offspring. This reproductive ability was established by God at Creation. All living things reproduce "after their kind." Because of his ability to reproduce after his kind, man in all of his variety is still man.

Question #8 Unordered

Show Answer

Due to our common heritage, what have we all inherited from Adam?

Question #9 TextMultipleChoice

Show Answer

Christ offers us a heritage of _____ life.

Question #10 TextMultipleChoice

Show Answer

Scientists classify men in the genus _____, the species _____, and the sub-species _____.

Question #11 TrueFalse

Show Answer

Living things are of the same species when they are able to mate and have fertile offspring.

- True
- False