Module 3 Essay

Doctrines of Humanity and the Image of God, and Original Sin

The doctrine of humanity and the image of God influences Christian life and ministry by showing the relationship between humans and God. When God created man in his own image (Gen 1:26-28), He initiated the relationship by making man special. All other animals, plants, and objects of creation were not in God’s image except humans. This special relationship exists in Christian life today through the practices and values that strive to represent God’s authority and glory. Christians are special creation of God and their have importance over all other creations. Secondly, this doctrine shows the structural and substantive nature of God as He creates humans with distinctive qualities, abilities, skills, and consciousness. Christians today thrive on this fact that God created them with specific traits, intended for specific functions. In the churches today the concepts of abled differently and having a purpose are common. Christians have recognized the substantive qualities that God bestowed into them and the need to utilize them to pursue God’s work.

The functional aspect of God’s image also influences Christian life and ministry by guiding the conduct, purpose, actions, and beliefs. Christians in different fields believe that their respective occupations and responsibilities are bestowed upon them by God. And that they have fundamental duty to fulfil their functions to uphold God’s glory and avoid punishment for sin. The ministry is also marred by teachings about the importance of committing to doing God’s work as part of personal responsibilities. In Genesis, God gave man specific duties including to reproduce, dominate other creations, and exalt God’s rule and authority on Earth. This doctrine does not only show the significance of humans over other God’s creation but limits the scope of Christian life and ministry to the rules and authority of God.

Chrisitan life and ministry is also influenced by the doctrine of original sin. After Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they faced instant punishment of nakedness, followed by hefty burdens of toiling to get food, labor pain, hatred among future generations, among others. These punishments for original sin guides Christian life to understand the intense authority of God and his mercilessness on betrayal and failure to exalt his rule. This is evident in the ministry teachings for repentance, avoiding more sin, and serving God with absolute loyalty and dedication. The ministry teaching about sin and repentance are also anchored on the consequences of original sin; most of the tribulations and temptations Christian face are God’s punishment for original sin. Therefore, the two doctrine influences Christian life and ministry by helping Christians to understand the nature of God and his special relationship with humans, abilities and responsibilities bestowed upon humans, and the repercussions for sinning or failing to abide by the rule and authority of God.