



Meant to Be

Our world says you'll be happier if you just be who you want to be. But God says we are happiest when we are who we were meant to be. 2021

An study of anthropology through the lens of scripture.

Welcome!

How to use this book:



Personal Devotions

Use this book to help you read your Bible every day. You will find a guide that will help you read through scriptures related to our sermon series. Scribble down your thoughts and questions and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word. Additionally, we've recommended a verse to memorise each week.

Listen to our Spotify playlist by searching for the 'Church by the Bridge and St Augustine's – Songs We Sing' playlist.

Please make note of and pray too, for the mentioned 'what's on' events in our term calendar.



Connect Groups

Take this guide with you to your Connect Group each week. Bible Studies based on the Sunday Bible talks will be provided to your leader each week, so we have left space to write down comments, questions and prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.



Church

Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church. Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

Dear Church,

Acts 9:31 reminds us of the growth experienced by the early church 'Living in fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it [the church] increased in number'. As we continue to live in awe and reverence and obedience to the Lord, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, God has been so kind in increasing us in number. Let's not take for granted all the new people who join us each week, all the people who become Christians at our church, and all the ways God continues to transform us through His Word.

There are a couple of things that are coming up in the life of this church that I'm particularly excited about:

1. A new umbrella name for our church family. We are now a large church family, with 9 gatherings, meeting in 3 geographical locations. The complexity and confusion caused by having 3 different names and logos and websites means we need a new umbrella name for our church. We seek to acknowledge our history, our culture and our distinctives, whilst looking forward to new opportunities to plant new gatherings in new locations. I'm excited by the new opportunities this unified name will bring to mission and maturity in our church.
2. The public launch of 10.30am church. I'm excited by the opportunity to reach into the Macquarie Park area as we publicly launch this gathering. Please pray for the Spirit to prod and prompt many people from the community to come and meet Jesus.
3. All Church Day Away. On Sunday 29th August, we plan for all 9 gatherings to meet together for a day of teaching, fellowship, fun, praise and prayer. I'm praying for a wonderful sense of togetherness as we meet new people and pray together for the growth of God's kingdom through our church.
4. Mission Action Week: As we continue to seek to love our neighbour, our action week again provides creative ways to engage with family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. But please remember every week is a great week to invite to church or to Alpha or Christianity Explored.

Please continue to pray for all our leadership team – our staff, Wardens and Parish Council, and all leaders across our churches – that they would lead with humility, joy, integrity and Christ-likeness. And pray for an outpouring of God’s Spirit as we grapple with the topic of Anthropology in our sermons and Connect Groups this term.

For the glory of Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Dale', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Paul Dale
(Senior Pastor)

On the next page you'll find a helpful

Overview

of anthropology

Overview

Psalm 8:4 'What are human beings that you are mindful of them'

What does it mean to be human? There is so much confusion and contradiction around today.

The world we live in shouts to us that we'll be happier if we just be who we want to be; so follow your feelings, follow your desires, define yourself how you want to be defined. The Bible, however, says something profoundly important and liberating. God says 'we will be happiest when we are who we were meant to be'.

That is why this sermon series on Anthropology is so important for our church family. We live in a world that has normalized adultery, abortion, pornography and same-sex marriage. We live in a world with addictions to social media, gaming, alcohol, drugs and sex. We live in a world obsessed with body image, fitness and anti-aging. We live in a world confused about gender, race, sexuality, work and identity.

But God's word addresses and clarifies all these issues as we understand who we are as His creatures, created in the image of God.

John Calvin helpfully says "No man can survey himself without turning his thoughts toward the God in whom he lives and moves".

So our starting point in this sermon series will be Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

In this sermon series, we will spend time grappling with the following topics:

CREATION: What does it mean to be made in the ‘image of God’?

We are created by a Trinitarian God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. So we are created as relational beings, social beings, needing to relate well to God, one another and the created world. We were not created for ‘individualism’, but for community and relationships. We are also rational beings, endowed with both reason and a moral conscience. In God’s wisdom we are created to steward and care for the creation. We also have the privilege and responsibility of representing God and his character in this world.

I want to suggest that when we fully understand what it means to be made in the image of God, we find our dignity, our identity, our value and our worth. Our worth is not dependent on our success or achievements, but simply as ‘image bearers’ of God. Every human life has dignity. Every human being is valued and loved. Our greatest goal is to live to please God and not be driven by pleasing people. This is a profoundly important truth for our world today.

SIN: Why is the human race so fractured and broken?

The effect of ‘The Fall’ is vital to understand if we are to grasp some of the struggles, complexities and brokenness today. When sin entered God’s world, there was a loss of moral innocence and righteousness, the image of God was fractured and distorted, and humanity experienced fractured fellowship with God. The curses of Genesis 3 explain much of the groaning of our environment today, the suffering and strife of humanity and the reality of death that stalks us all our lives.

INCARNATION: What does it mean for Jesus to be fully human?

The humanity of Jesus is vital to our study of Anthropology. The Bible declares that Jesus was fully human (Hebrews 2:17) yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15), created in the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15-17) and the exact radiance of God’s glory (Hebrews 1:1-3). We will unpack the incarnation and the truth that we are being renewed into the image of our Creator (Colossians 3:10), awaiting the transformation of our lowly bodies into the likeness of his glorious body (Philippians 3:21). The true humanity of Jesus sheds light on the people we were meant to be.

CRUCIFIXION: How does the cross of Christ shape our humanity?

Jesus is described as ‘the second Adam’ (1 Corinthians 15:45-49 & Romans 5:12-21), the one man who died for the sins of many. For those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we are called ‘children of God’, ‘loved’, ‘restored’, ‘redeemed’, ‘cherished’. Only when we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour can we fully comprehend the joys and privileges of our humanity, where we are no longer slaves to sin, with the freedom to live and worship as we should.

CONSUMMATION: How does the new creation impact our understanding of humanity?

These human bodies are just our ‘tents’, as we await our new, perfect resurrection bodies with the return of our Lord Jesus. All the brokenness, sadness, shame and imperfections of our humanity will never be ‘perfectly healed’ in this fallen world. That is why we cry out ‘Come Lord Jesus, come’.

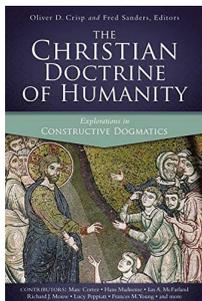
These 5 poles of **CREATION – SIN – INCARNATION – CRUCIFIXION – CONSUMMATION** will help guide us through our series.

Biblical anthropology has implications for all kinds of areas of our lives, to name but a few:

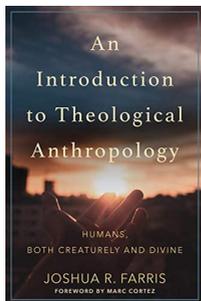
- Gender Matters: What does it mean to be male and female, and how do we participate in the many gender dysphoria discussions of today?
- Sexuality Matters: Why did God create sex, and how are we to express our sexuality today? In the highly sexualized world, what is God’s design for sex?
- Race Matters: The respect and dignity of all people, of all race and ethnicities is throughout the Scriptures.
- Community Matters: The beauty of social interactions and community will combat the battle of loneliness and isolation today.
- Body Matters: The portrayal of the perfect body and the quest to avoid aging is a loud voice in our culture. A correct understanding of the body will be liberating for many.
- Ethics Matters: Many contemporary issues such as abortion, genetic engineering, euthanasia, rape and abuse are addressed with such tenderness and comfort by God’s Word on humanity.
- Work Matters: What is work, how and why should we work and how do we avoid finding our identity in our work?

There are many other topics we could look at, such as war, capital punishment, disabilities, impact of technology and social media. So can I encourage you to read widely and wisely throughout the series.

Here are some recommended books and resources:



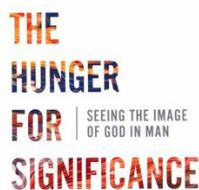
The Christian Doctrine of Anthropology
Oliver Crisp



Introduction to Theological Anthropology: Humans, Both Creaturely and Divine
Joshua Farris

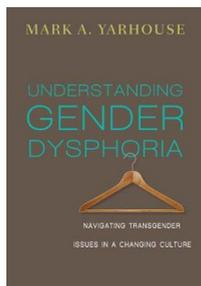


Fearfully and wonderfully made
Dr Megan Best

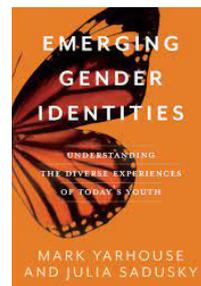


R.C. Sproul

The Hunger for Significance: Seeing the image of God in man
R C Sproul



Understanding Gender Dysphoria
Mark Yarhouse



Emerging Gender Identity
Mark Yarhouse & Julia Sadusky

Gender Confusion, **Rob and Claire Smith**: <https://paa.moore.edu.au/resources/gender-confusion-rob-claire-smith/>

Dementia, **Susan An**: <https://www.australianchurchrecord.net/dementia-and-the-christian-will-jesus-remember-me-if-ive-forgotten-him/>

What's on This Term:

JULY

13th Alpha Course Term 3 Launch (10 wks)
Christianity Explored Term 3 Launch (7 weeks)

14th Everyday English Term 3 commences

15th Playtime at Kirribilli Term 3 commences

16th Bay Kids Term 3 commences
Ignite Term 3 commences

18th Launch "Meant to Be" Sermon Series (9 weeks)
Kids Church Kick Off Term 3

26th Young Adults meeting

31st Working Bees

AUG

01st Baptism Information Session
Belonging Intensive

04th Monthly Central Prayer Evening

07th Monthly Central Prayer Morning

19th God & Science Night

28th Belonging Course Commences (3 wks)

29th All Church Away Day
Baptism Sunday

Sept

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 01st | Monthly Central Prayer Evening |
| 02nd | Raising Gospel Workers - Intern Info Night |
| 04th | Election Day mission activities
Monthly Central Prayer Morning |
| 05th | Mission Action Week |
| 06th | Wellbeing & Care Seminar |
| 11th | Kids Mini World Cup Soccer Event |
| 12th | Baptism Sunday |
| 13th | Final Playtime, Everyday English, Bay Kids,
Ignite for term 3 |

Notes

On the next page you'll find pages for all your

Sermon 1: Image of God

Bible verses:

Monday: Genesis 1:1-27

Tuesday: Genesis 1:28 - 2:3

Wednesday: Genesis 2:1-17

Thursday: Genesis 2:18-25

Friday: Psalm 8

Memory verse:

Genesis 1:27 - So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Sermon 2: Broken Image

Bible verses:

Monday: Genesis 3:1-13

Tuesday: Genesis 3:14-24

Wednesday: Genesis 4

Thursday: Romans 5:12-21

Friday: 1 John 1:5-2:2

Memory verse:

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Sermon 3: Community Matters

Bible verses:

Monday: John 15:1-17

Tuesday: Colossians 3:12-17

Wednesday: Romans 12:1-8

Thursday: Romans 12:9-21

Friday: Hebrews 10:19-25

Memory verse:

Colossians 3:14 - And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Sermon 4: Gender Matters

Bible verses:

Monday: Genesis 1:26-28 & 2:20-25

Tuesday: Galatians 3:26 – 4:7

Wednesday: Titus 2:1-15

Thursday: Ephesians 5:1-33

Friday: Romans 16

Memory verse:

Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Sermon 5: Sexuality Matters

Bible verses:

Monday: Song of Songs 1

Tuesday: Song of Songs 2

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Friday: Romans 1:18-32

Memory verse:

Genesis 2:25 - Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Sermon 6: Body Matters

Bible verses:

Monday: Ephesians 2:1-10

Tuesday: 1 Timothy 4:8-16

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-34

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

Friday: 1 Samuel 16

Memory verse:

1 Samuel 16:7 - But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Sermon 7: Race Matters

Bible verses:

Monday: Genesis 11:1-9

Tuesday: Genesis 12

Wednesday: Acts 17:16-33

Thursday: Matthew 28:16-20

Friday: Revelation 7

Memory verse:

Revelation 7:9 - After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

Sermon 8: Life Matters

Bible verses:

Monday: Psalm 139:1-6

Tuesday: Psalm 139:7-12

Wednesday: Psalm 139:13-16

Thursday: Psalm 139:17-24

Friday: Psalm 139

Memory verse:

Psalm 139:14 - I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Sermon 9: Work Matters

Bible verses:

Monday: Genesis 2:4-19 & Genesis 3:14-19

Tuesday: Proverbs 6:1-19

Wednesday: John 6:25-59

Thursday: Ecclesiastes 2:17-3:22

Friday: Ephesians 4:17-32

Memory verse:

John 6:27 - Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

How has our series on Anthropology changed your view of:

- God – Father, Son & Spirit?
- Yourself?
- The world in which we live?

How has our Anthropology series helped you in Loving Your Neighbour?

What is one area you have changed? (in your thinking or actions)

What is one question that you still have?

Personal Reflection

The Giving Update

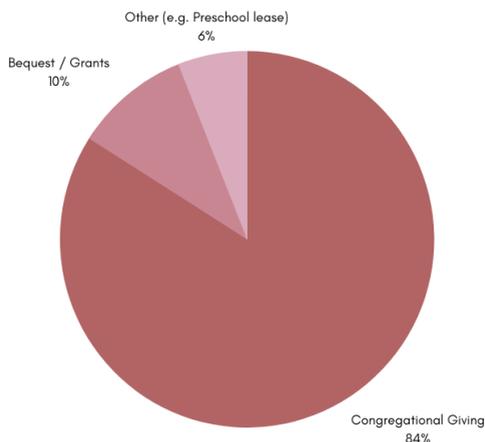
God has been gracious and generous to us and we are called to give back. A majority of the income for The Bridge Church is funded by the generosity of our congregations, and what we give is used to further the work of the Gospel.

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1:17

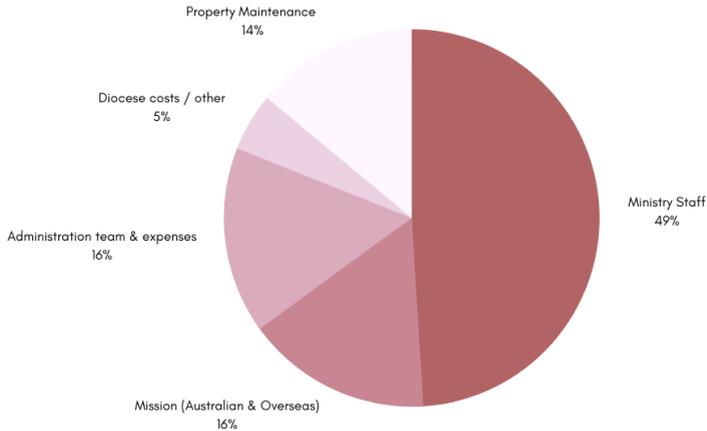
The money we receive through giving is used to help spread the Good News through our ministries both locally and further afield, to maintain our buildings as places for us to meet and worship and on the administration and management of the work performed by our Ministry Teams.

Here’s how God blessed us with income and how we’ve used the generous gifts in 2020:

Income



Spending



Put another way, the generous, planned and intentional giving of our congregations currently supports 9 physical and online services on a Sunday across three locations - Kirribilli, Neutral Bay and Macquarie Park, ministering to over 1000 members, with youth and kids ministries for around 250 children; 19 International and Australian mission partners, Services to Greenway and Aged Care Facilities; Everyday English, Playtime, Outreach Events, Explore Courses, Wellbeing and Care Seminars and Scripture in Schools.

If you would like to partner with our church, you can give by using our bank account details below, or head to our website for more details - <https://cibt.org.au/give>

Bank Account details:

BSB: 032 099

Account number: 637189

Account name: The Parish of Kirribilli and Neutral Bay

Extra Notes



CHURCH BY THE BRIDGE
Kirribilli



ST AUGUSTINE'S
Neutral Bay