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Human Nature -Who are We?

| **Further Reading**

**Mind Games
Survival Course
Manual**



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Human Nature

Who Are We?

Don Closson

For Further Reading

Baker, William H. *In the Image of God* Chicago: Moody Bible Institute, 1991.

A very helpful summary of the biblical view of human nature. Baker not only discusses many of the current positions held on the subject, but also gives the reader a historical perspective. Implications for psychology, racism and prejudice, and evangelism are briefly addressed.

Cosgrove, Mark P. *The Essence of Human Nature*,. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan/Probe, 1977.

This short book looks at the biological, behavioristic, and humanistic views of mankind. Although it contains some psychological jargon, it is readable and concise.

Custance, Arthur C. *The Mysterious Matter of Mind*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan/Probe, 1980.

This too is a relatively short book that focuses on the nature of the mind. Is the mind merely a biological machine or is it somehow greater than its electrical-chemical composition? It attempts to answer this question with a fairly sophisticated discussion of the issue.

Evans, Stephen C. *Existentialism*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan/Probe, 1984.

A sophisticated, personal discussion of the leading existential dogmas. Evan's book is rewarding to those willing to struggle with the abstract concepts of modern existentialism.

Geisler, Norman, and William D. Watkins. *Worlds Apart: A Handbook on World Views*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1989.

The authors look at seven world views in a very straightforward, almost outline format. A concise and readable catalog of the competing views that are available

in our culture.

Guinness, Os, and John Seel. *No God But God: Breaking the Idols of Our Age.* Chicago: Moody, 1992.

The chapters by Os Guinness and Paul Vitz on the role that psychology has taken in our society are excellent. Both point to the therapeutic nature of our churches and the removal of biblical truth in exchange for humanistic psychological "truth."

Koster, John P. *The Atheist Syndrome.* Brentwood, Tenn.: Wolgemuth & Hyatt, 1989.

A fascinating book that delves into the personal lives of four of the most influential atheists of recent history. The author then considers the continuing influence their thinking has had on our culture.

Moreland, J. P., and David M. Ciochi. *Christian Perspectives on Being Human: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Integration.* Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1993.

This book contains contributions from Christians in various disciplines who attempt to apply biblical truth to modern social science. Written for the advanced student, it gives sophisticated arguments for a dualistic view of the soul and a Christian view of personhood, sin nature, and other topics.

Sire, James. *The Universe Next Door.* 3d ed. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1997.

Although this book is similar to Geisler's, it uses more literary examples for each world view and leaves the reader with a better understanding of those who might be living within its sphere of influence.

Stevenson, Leslie. *Seven Theories of Human Nature.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1987.

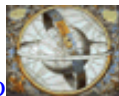
This non-Christian work is a very helpful analysis of the major views of human nature. Stevenson is even-handed in his approach and uncovers facets of each view that are not found in the other works.

Vitz, Paul C. *Psychology as Religion: The Cult of Self-Worship.* Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1977.

Although out of print, this short book is invaluable for critiquing the humanistic school of psychology. Vitz argues that much of the work done in this field is more religious in nature than scientific. The book includes a brief overview of the major theorists in the field of humanistic psychology.

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