

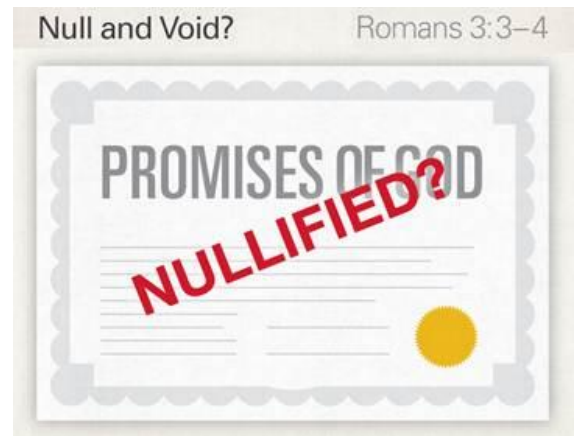
Epistle to the Romans, 3:1-20

¹ Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ² Much, in every way. For in the first place, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.

- Jew: Naturally born Hebrew.
- Includes conversion.
- Circumcision: Scripture, the Tanakh.
- Oracles:

Jews' advantages

- Adopted by Yahweh God.
- Covenants with Yahweh God.
- Oracles and laws from Yahweh God.
- History with Yahweh God.
- Yahweh God's prophets and Scriptures.
- Yahweh God's temple and glory.
- Yahweh God's coming Messiah.
- A glorious future with the Gentiles.



³ What if some were unfaithful? Will their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? ⁴ By no means! Although every human is a liar, let God be proved true, as it is written, "So that you may be justified in your words and you will prevail when you go to trial." [Ps 51.4; 116.11]

- Faithfulness: Keep one's promises.
- Justified: Declared righteous/innocent.

⁵ But if our injustice serves to confirm the justice of God, what should we say? That God is unjust to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) ⁶ By no means! For then how could God judge the world?

- Injustice: *Adikia*, habitual wrongdoing.
- Justice: *Dikaio suné*, always right.
- Unjust: *Adikos*, crooked, unfair.
- Judge: Inflict wrath on real evil.

"God is ..."

Able	For us	Judge	Majestic	Savior
Among us	Giver	Just	Merciful	Shield
Awesome	Glorified	King	One	Sovereign
Defender	Good	Light	Present	Spirit
Exalted	Gracious	Living	Protector	Strong
Faithful	Great	Lord	Refuge	With us
Fire	Holy	Love	Rock	Witness

NOTE: There are more than 100 divine names and titles in the Tanakh and the N.T.

⁷ But if through my falsehood God's truthfulness abounds to his glory, why am I still being judged as a sinner? ⁸ And why not say (as some people slander us by saying that we say), "Let us do evil so that good may come"? Their judgment is deserved!

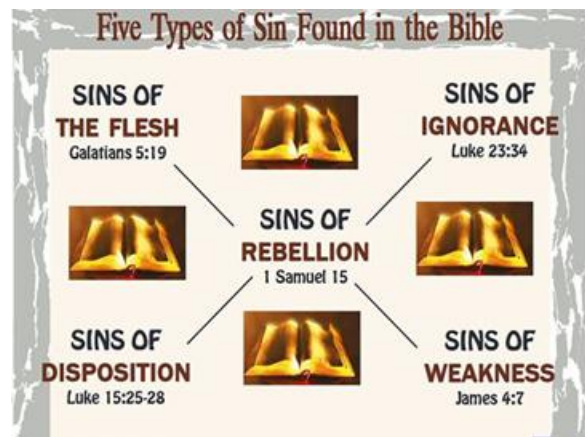
- Judged: By law or by a standard.
- Deserved: Gk., 1. just. 2. penalty.

⁹ What then? Are we any better off? No, not at all, for we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under the power of sin, ...

- We: Gentiles? Christians?
- Better off: How? Innocent?
- Already: 1:18; 2:12; 3:10
- All: = 'both'
- Under sin: Power? Desire? Guilt?

What is sin?

- Wrong actions and deeds.
- Desire for the forbidden.
- Violation of divine laws.
- Non-submission to legitimate authority.
- The innate capacity to rebel.
- An indwelling unclean spirit.
- State of spiritual death.
- Hatred towards God and neighbor.



¹⁰ as it is written:

"There is no one who is righteous, not even one;

¹¹ there is no one who has understanding;

there is no one who seeks God.

- Written: Psalm 14:1-3 LXX
- Understanding: Realization.
- No one: Who seeks whom?
- Seek: Lit, 'seek out'.

¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
there is no one who shows kindness;
there is not even one."

¹³ "Their throats are opened graves;
they use their tongues to deceive."

"The venom of vipers is under their lips." [Psalm 5:9]

Under ...

- Under the law. 2.12 3.19 4.16
- Under sin. 3.9
- Poison under their lips. 3.13

- Not under the law. 6.14,15
- Under grace. 6.14,15
- Not under the old written code. 7.6
- Not under obligation. 8.12
- Satan under your feet. 16.20

¹⁴ “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”

¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

¹⁶ ruin and misery are in their paths,

¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known.”

¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

- Human: Sarx, flesh without spirit.
- Justified: Declared innocent (by God)
- Deeds: Ergon, human effort.
- Knowledge: Mental and experiential.
- Sin: Rebellion, violation, death.

Justification

“An instantaneous legal act of God in which he

(1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and

(2) declares us to be righteous in his sight.”

Wayne Gruden, *Bible Doctrine* (1999), p. 486

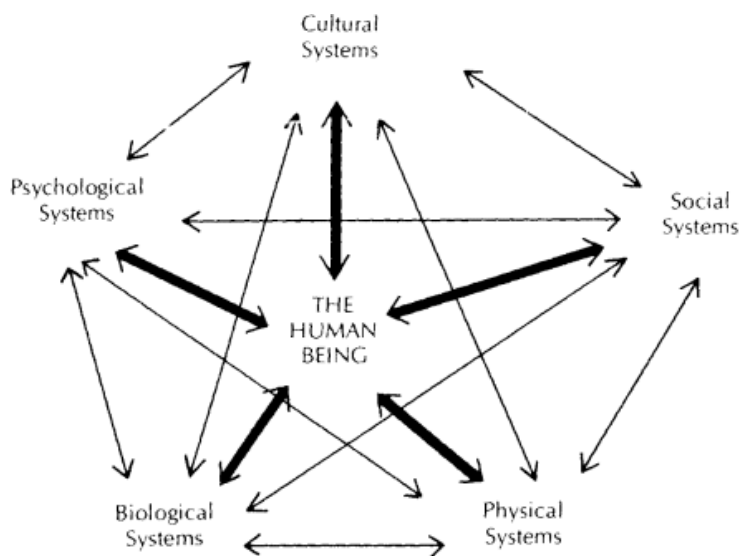


Figure 2.1 Anthropology seeks to discover the interrelationships between various scientific models of the human being.

home.snu.edu/~hculbert/points.htm

