





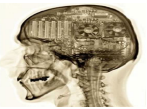




What does it mean to be human?

Theology and Social Science

Worldview		A particular philosophy or belief about life and the world around us.
Lenses		The ideas, experiences and beliefs that affect how we see the world around us.
Religion		An organised system of belief in and worship of a superhuman power.
Social Science		The study of human behaviour, society and culture.
Identity		The way we see ourselves and where we belong.
Dualism		The idea that a person is made up of 2 parts – a body and a soul or spirit.
Physicalism		The idea that a person is only made up of one part – the physical body.
Genesis		The first book of the Old Testament in the Bible telling about the creation of the world and of life on earth
Interpretation		An opinion or viewpoint about what something means.

<h3>Origin Accounts</h3> <p>Two types of origin stories</p> <p>Foundation myths - how particular person or place came to be. E.g.: Romulus and Remus.</p> <p>Creation myths – description of how the world came to be. E.g.: Ancient Egypt and sun-god Ra.</p> <p>Why are they important to humans?</p> <p>Part of a universe of meaning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the world seem more purposeful • Point to humans • Give explanations of why humans are the way they are • Give explanations of what it is to be human

What are the different interpretations of Genesis and the nature of humans?

<p>God is like a strong ruler, who is the king of all of creation. So it is the job of humans – all humans – to worship (show love, respect and loyalty) to God. That's part of what it means to be human.</p>	<p>God chooses to create the universe. It doesn't happen by accident – it is purposeful. This tells many religious people that life has a meaning and a purpose because we are part of a universe made on purpose.</p>	<p>God says that every part of the creation is “good”. This tells many religious people that looking after the natural world and environment is an important part of human life.</p>
<p>In the story, God says that different parts of the creation are “good”. When God creates humans, that the phrase “very good” is used. For many religious people, this shows that humans are the most special part of creation. Humans are special because they are created in the “image” of God.</p>	<p>In the story, God creates men and women and tells them to have children. For some religious people, this tells them that family life and having children is extremely important. For some, it is interpreted as a God-given duty.</p>	<p>In the story, God creates for six days, but rests on the seventh. This tells many religious people that rest is important and built in to the universe. Many might treat one day of the week (Saturday in Judaism and Sunday in Christianity) as a particularly special or even holy day and do things differently on that day.</p>