

Man's Distinctiveness Testifies

Open-Book Review

Use this week's ThinkCube to answer the following questions. The purpose isn't to test your memory, but to help you review how mankind's unique cognition, spiritual awareness, language, and ingenuity point to humanity being uniquely made in the image of God.

PREMISE 1

Humans Are Made in the Image of God

Open-Book Review

1. According to Genesis 1:26–27, what uniquely distinguishes mankind?

- A. Humans are made in the image and likeness of God
- B. Humans possess the largest brains in creation
- C. Humans are physically stronger than all animals
- D. Humans are the oldest living species

2. What does the image of God help explain about human distinctiveness?

- A. Our capacities for reason, morality, relationship, choice, and creativity
- B. Only our physical appearance
- C. Only our ability to use tools
- D. Only our lifespan

3. Which abilities does the ThinkCube emphasize as uniquely developed in mankind?

- A. Abstract reasoning, complex language, moral judgment, creativity, and contemplation
- B. Instinctive migration and nesting
- C. Echolocation and camouflage
- D. Only physical strength

4. What conclusion does the ThinkCube draw from mankind's cognitive distinctiveness?

- A. It points to special creation and divine endowment
- B. It proves brain size alone explains humanity
- C. It shows humans possess no unique qualities
- D. It makes questions of human origins irrelevant

Be Prepared to Share

1. How would you explain in your own words why mankind's ability to reason, choose, contemplate, and create points to something beyond mere biological similarity?
2. If humans are simply another animal species, what best explains the extraordinary intellectual and creative gulf between mankind and every other species?

PREMISE 2

Human Spiritual Consciousness Cannot Be Explained Naturally

Open-Book Review

1. What does the ThinkCube identify as the deepest distinction between mankind and animals?

- A. The immaterial or spiritual dimension of human nature
- B. Greater physical strength
- C. Longer life expectancy
- D. The ability to live in groups

2. What is meant by a 'religious instinct' or 'sense of the divine'?

- A. Humanity's recurring inclination toward God, transcendence, and spiritual reality
- B. An animal survival reflex
- C. A learned mathematical skill
- D. A biological need for shelter

3. How has spiritual consciousness appeared across human cultures?

- A. Through worship, belief in the divine, the afterlife, ultimate meaning, and spiritual realities
- B. Only through modern technology
- C. Only in Western civilization
- D. Only among philosophers

4. According to the Christian explanation presented, what happens to the human spirit at death?

- A. The spirit returns to God who gave it
- B. It becomes physical matter only
- C. It becomes another animal
- D. It ceases to have any significance

Be Prepared to Share

1. Why is humanity's widespread concern with God, eternity, meaning, and life after death significant when considering what makes mankind distinct?

2. How would you explain the Christian claim that the greatest distinction of mankind is not simply a larger brain, but a spiritual nature made to know God?

PREMISE 3

Human Language Cannot Be Explained Naturally

Open-Book Review

1. What feature makes human language fundamentally different from ordinary animal communication?

- A. It is compositional and can express unlimited new ideas
- B. It consists only of fixed warning calls
- C. It cannot refer to the past or future
- D. It is entirely instinctive

2. What does compositional language allow humans to do?

- A. Combine words and grammatical structures to communicate complex and abstract ideas
- B. Repeat only inherited sounds
- C. Communicate only immediate danger
- D. Avoid using symbols

3. How early do ordinary human children begin developing sophisticated language?

- A. Within the first few years of life
- B. Only after formal schooling
- C. Only in adulthood
- D. Only after learning mathematics

4. What uniquely human capability accompanies spoken language?

- A. Writing and the transmission of accumulated knowledge across generations
- B. Echolocation
- C. Migration by instinct
- D. Fixed repetitive calls

Be Prepared to Share

1. Why is the universal human capacity for complex spoken and written language difficult to compare with the fixed communication systems observed in animals?

2. If biological similarity alone explains cognition, what accounts for mankind's unique ability to compose, speak, write, preserve, and continually expand abstract knowledge?

PREMISE 4

Human Ingenuity Cannot Be Explained Naturally

Open-Book Review

1. What responsibility did God give mankind in Genesis 1:28?

- A. To exercise dominion and stewardship over the earth
- B. To avoid changing the environment
- C. To live without using tools
- D. To imitate animal behavior

2. Which qualities enable humans to cultivate and transform their environment?

- A. Reason, creativity, planning, resourcefulness, and innovation
- B. Instinct alone
- C. Physical strength alone
- D. Repetitive inherited behavior

3. What pattern distinguishes human technology from animal tool use in the ThinkCube?

- A. Human knowledge and technology accumulate and advance across generations
- B. Animals continually develop advanced civilizations
- C. Human technology remains unchanged
- D. Animals preserve written technical knowledge

4. Which examples demonstrate cumulative human ingenuity?

- A. Agriculture, medicine, transportation, writing, engineering, and space exploration
- B. Only hunting and gathering
- C. Only simple stone tools
- D. Only instinctive shelter building

Be Prepared to Share

1. How does mankind's continual accumulation of knowledge, technology, art, science, and innovation distinguish human creativity from animal behavior?
2. If humans and chimpanzees are biologically similar in many respects, what best explains the enormous difference in language, abstract thought, moral reasoning, creativity, and technological innovation?