

Robert A. Pyne, *Humanity & Sin* (Nashville: Word Publishing, 1999).

There are few good books available in the areas of the doctrine of man and the doctrine of sin. Robert Pyne's book in the Swindoll Leadership Library fills this void with a modern, readable discussion of the origin and nature of humanity, the sinfulness of humanity and the hope for humanity. While biblically realistic about man's plight, Pyne is upbeat and positive throughout. Practical analogies and experiences pepper the landscape of serious theological reflection yielding a book that has value for pastoral ministry as well as for the classroom of Bible colleges and seminaries.

The theology of the book is evangelical and conservative. Our readers might be disappointed that Pyne does not argue explicitly for a young earth and recent creation. While holding that position as a possibility, he also allows for (and seems to hold tentatively) the view of progressive creationism as one potentially true option. On the other hand, Pyne succinctly presents the great number of problems with the teaching of evolution that life comes from non-life and that higher life forms evolve from lower life forms.

This reviewer would also disagree with the teaching that the Davidic kingdom has already been inaugurated during this age rather than awaiting the Second Coming of Christ. However, this thesis is not crucial to the overall message of Pyne's work. Some interesting observations made by Pyne are the following: 1) the traducian view of the origin of the soul removes any theological basis for abortion rights, 2) there are several social expressions of the seven deadly sins, and 3) the image of God in man originally included a luminous body to represent the glory of God. Pyne's work is to be commended to all serious students of the Word of God who want a good survey of the issues involved in understanding where man came from, who man is now, and where he is headed.

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