

Potchefstroom: PU for CHE. Institute for Reformational Studies. 83 Pages. Price R20,00.

Reviewer: Rev C A P van Tonder (Sonlandpark)

According to the preface of this work, this booklet resulted from a lecture Van der Walt delivered at a conference held at the Daystar University in Nairobi during January 1997. Daystar University hosted the conference with the central theme *Christian worldview and Christian scholarship*.

Van der Walt's published lecture is a valuable contribution to anthropological and philosophical studies from a Christian perspective. As he states himself, the conference organisers gave him a difficult assignment: *to study God's creation in its rich diversity and to try to penetrate it with the human intellect*. He was expected to deal with both a Christian anthropology and philosophy of society in the same lecture, which made the task even more difficult.

The content of the lecture focuses on the following aspects: The human being as (1) a sexual being, (2) a holistic being, (3) a multidimensional being, (4) a religious being, (5) a cultural being and as (6) an individual-communal being. Each topic is well illustrated with diagrammatic explanations.

What the author does is to bring to light the diversity of culture and its influence on people's response to God's revelation. Whereas African culture emphasises the community, the West absolutises the individual. Whatever perspective, human beings have to live God's commandment of love of the self and of the neighbour.

The booklet ends with an appendix containing seventy questions in order to stimulate group discussions. Unfortunately the lecture has no bibliographical information to stimulate further reading or to enable use for referential purposes.

This work must be seen as an introductory comment on the various anthropological aspects of the human being and is recommended for students interested in this subject.

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