

"What We Believe"

Session 6

The Fall: God Loves

I) INTRODUCTION

- A) Many of us have grown up with the feeling that things should not be like they are. Within each of us there is an understanding that something in the world and in our hearts is wrong. All of us are looking for a little slice of Eden in a hell like earth.
- B) But in all of our looking, we've spent money, held elections, funded organizations, written blogs, started companies and boasted of higher education while war, sickness, fear, tragedies, suffering, injustice, evil, pain and death continue to go uncontested in the earth. Why? Because of the fall.

II) What Is The Fall?

- A) The fall is the sin that took place between Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden in Genesis chapter 3. This chapter presents us with our past, present and future crisis and our current solution.
- B) Genesis 1 and 2 tell us that God was keeping things good for Adam and Eve in the garden, but in Genesis 3 the devil deceived them by saying that God was keeping good from them.
- C) Eve was deceived by the serpent into eating from the tree of life which God told them not to eat from. Eve choose to trust herself, instead of trusting what God said.
- D) Adam who was standing by, did nothing, abdicating his responsibility to lovingly lead his family and protect them from the evil one. Instead of speaking he was silent. Instead on intervening he participated. Instead of fighting he was defeated. Adam by sin of omission, did nothing.
- E) Because God held the man responsible, He came looking for Adam. Instead of taking responsibility Adam would blame shift and accuse the wife. Eve would follow in his footsteps and blame the devil. This is the darkest day of human history that would change all things, until Jesus comes, not at the first coming, but at the second coming!
- F) Respect for authority was replaced with rebellion (they did their own thing) A clear conscience was replaced by guilt and shame (they were naked and ashamed) Blessing was replaced by physical, spiritual and eternal punishment (they were banned from the garden and would die) Trust was replaced with fear (they were scared of God) Love was replaced with hatred (their son would kill his brother) Intimacy was replaced by lying and deceit (they didn't take responsibility for what they did) Peace was replaced with restlessness (they had pain in work and childbirth) Responsibility was replaced with blaming (Adam overseen the garden and was now lying to God).
- G) Filled with darkness and prone to a selfish life, fences, rape, greed, anger and war would enter into society all because of the fall.

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- H) At Adam and Eve's lowest state, God would judge them for their sin and then cover them with skins. They would be banned from the garden and sentenced to die, which was the kindness of God. Death was a gift to them, so Adam and Eve wouldn't have to live forever on earth in a hell like state.
- I) This is why the Bible doesn't tell us things will get better here on earth and it will never return to an Eden like state. It will take Christ returning to the earth for the second time and taking over all the governments of the earth to make it a re-created Garden City. Some things will improve, but as a whole, life will get worse and worse as sin matures into the anti-Christ. Eden will never take place until the serpent is cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 21.

III) What Is Sin?

- A) Sin is; Lawlessness, Faithlessness, Missing the target, A wandering from the path, Hard heart Blindness, Deafness, The overstepping of the line, Stiff neck, Transgressing, Idolatry and Self-worship.
- B) When we sin it is God that we hurt the most. Although both we and others are hurt by our sin, it is God we hurt the most as we are going our own way. **Psalm 51:4** *"Against You, You only have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight."* **Luke 15:21** *"...Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight..."*
- C) Here are four aspects of our sin from the Old Testament;
 - 1) Sin in the OT is first a *relational breach*. The sin in Genesis 3 caused separation from God and one another.
 - 2) Sin in the OT is a *social matter* because peace is broken. This is clear when we look at our world and culture.
 - 3) Sin in the OT includes emotional pain such as shame, guilt and disgrace. Before Adam and Eve sinned, they were naked and unashamed; after sin they are naked and ashamed.
 - 4) Sin in the OT finally ends in death. Instead of ruling creation and becoming immortal with God, we are ruled by creation and return to dust.
- D) Here are four aspects of our sin from the New Testament;
 - 1) Sin in the NT is that we have missed the mark or fallen short. Romans 3:23
 - 2) Sin in the NT is that we have crossed the line of God's law.
 - 3) Sin in the NT is that we have committed transgression, meaning we knew it, and did it anyway.
 - 4) Sin in the NT is that we live godless, or as if there is no God.
- E) We sin by both **omission** (*knowing what to do and not doing it*) and by **commission** (*knowing what we are about to do is wrong and doing it anyway*).
- F) Sometimes sin is breaking the law like murder, and sometimes it's not, like adultery. The practice of sin can occur once, regularly or even frequently.
- G) Sin is also the turning of a good thing (sex, money, work, comfort) into a bad thing so that it is worshipped more than God.

IV) Where Did Sin Originate?

- A) We were born into sin through Adam. This sin nature begins in our mother's womb. This is called hereditary depravity, meaning we inherit this nature through Adam and our fathers and mothers.
- B) Most of the time when we sin we do it in one of these four areas: God doesn't really have power; God really isn't good; nothing is really off limits; my problems or sin is the result of my parents or the culture I live in.
- C) God doesn't sin, or cause us to sin, but we sin when we are carried away with our own passions and lusts. **James 1:13-15**
- D) This means that behavioral change isn't enough; we must receive a new heart and a new nature. Trading the nature of Adam for the nature of Christ through God the Holy Spirit.
- E) This also means that there are only two kinds of people alive on the earth, those with the nature of Adam, headed to hell, and those with the nature of Christ, headed to heaven.
- F) If Adam had not sinned he would have looked just like Jesus Christ. He would not have been God, but would've been like Jesus Christ.
- G) Some say that it's unfair for God to count us sinners based on what someone else has done, mainly Adam and Eve.
 - 1) Those who protest this have also voluntarily committed sins. The root of our sin comes from Adam, but the general basis for our judgment before Christ will be the sins that we have committed before God.
 - 2) If we were in Adam's place we would have done the same thing. He represented us as our Father and the Apple didn't fall to far from the tree. Remember that Adam was in paradise when they sinned.
 - 3) And if it was unfair for Adam to represent us before God then it would also be unfair to have Christ represent us before the Father and take our place again.

V) What Is Total Depravity?

- A) **Matthew 5:3** *"Happy are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God."*
 - 1) This scripture should be said like this "You will become most happy when you realize that you are completely *broke* internally, meaning that you have nothing, not one penny to give to God other than your confession and as you confess you will receive the power to change your circumstance."
- B) Total depravity means that in our every motive, word, actions and thoughts we have been affected, stained and marred by sin and this includes our mind, our will, our emotions, our heart, our conscience and our physical bodies.
- C) There are good people in the earth who do good things for others, but without the confession that we are in total depravity apart from Christ, we go to a real, literal, eternal place of separation and torment from God called hell.

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- D) This means that all of our reasoning powers, our will, and our understanding have all been affected by sin. We can't trust any part of us outside of Christ for it is all fallen.
- E) Sin isn't something we do, it's who we are. We are sinners, not people who sin. We sin because we are sinners.

VI) What Are Some Sinful Views Of Sin?

- A) As Christians and the Church, God has called us to be living examples within our earth to tell humanity about God by both the way we live our lives and what we say. And unless we talk about sin, humanity will continue to speculate about what is right and wrong which will keep them from the truth of Jesus Christ.
- B) Here are a few ways that Christians falsely see sin which affects our holiness, our happiness and our lives.
 - 1) I broke the rules of God.
 - (i) This is true, but sin is much more, it's a direct violation of God Himself. More than rules!
 - 2) Jesus died for me.
 - (i) This is true, but this doesn't get us off the hook from pursuing a life like Jesus Christ.
 - 3) I am a good person.
 - (i) This might be true, but just because you are nice and polite, doesn't mean that Jesus isn't displeased with some of the choices you're making. I used to think my car ran better when the carpet was clean.
 - 4) Nobody is getting hurt by what I'm doing.
 - (i) Though you think this might be true, because your relationship is with God your sin hurts Him first, then you, then your Church, then your family and your community.
 - 5) It's okay, everybody is doing it.
 - (i) Often times our culture calls a vice a *virtue*. We do this by saying that God is for something that He is actually against. There are lots of things our culture does, even within the Church that God is against.
 - 6) It's not sin, It's just a mistake.
 - (i) A mistake is not always a sin, especially if we didn't know what we did, which is why we call it a mistake. But often times we know what we did *was* sin, and we call it a mistake. This is why we ask others and ourselves if we knew what we were doing was wrong.

VII) What Are Some Sinful Responses To Sin?

- A) As sinners we are prone to talk about our sin in sinful ways. We often sin in how we respond to our personal sin and the sin of others.
 - 1) We minimize sin.

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- (i) We do this by comparing our sin to other people's sin. And we say to others who have sinned:
- 2) It's okay that this happened, there was lots going on.
 - (i) This is dancing around what actually took place by telling a long story and we end up deceiving ourselves that we really didn't sin. Don't dance, be honest and call it what it is.
- 3) It was out of my power and I was forced to do it.
 - (i) This is blame-shifting. We shift the blame from us to someone else, just like our first father Adam. Take responsibility.
- 4) I will take responsibility for half of what I did.
 - (i) Instead of taking the full blame we take half. Rather than saying sorry, we take part and cover up the rest. Half confessed sin is not better than no confessed sin. Un-confessed sin is still un-confessed sin.
- 5) I'm sorry for what I did.
 - (i) We often say this because we got caught, not because of Godly sorrow. 2nd Cor. 7:9-11. This still leads to death.
- 6) This is who I am and what I do, I wish it was different but I can't help it.
 - (i) Lots of men say this to their wives and it's a lie. Sin is not a disease that needs to be treated. Sin is a condition that needs to be confessed.

VIII) How Does God Respond To Sin?

- A) If I were God and my creation treated me the way I treat God, I would not have mercy on my creation, I would punish them. This is why we know that God is not figment of our imagination. We would not have created a God like the living God, we would have created a mad, angry, disappointed God who was ready to punish the earth.
- B) **Genesis 3:15** *"And I will put enmity between you and the women and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."*
- C) It's here in the midst of their greatest crisis God judges the serpent, the women and the man, but also gives them the promise of a Deliverer that would save humanity from the sins of our first parents Adam and Eve and covers them with the shed blood of an animal.
- D) In Christ Jesus, God not only judged sin, but also bore its penalty in Himself as an act of love. He offers forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration with God if we will repent and press towards a life of loving Him in the way that He has loved us.
- E) This is why we love conviction, why we invite the searching of our hearts by God, why we love the corrective voice to God. This is why we use the great gift of repentance, tell everyone we know to use it, share it and rejoice in it.