

Introduction

Welcome to the Fall of Man class. I'm Michael McPherson your teacher. I'd like go over some things you should know prior to starting the class. On the LLG website class page you will see several assignments for this class. Each assignment can be done on a weekly basis. For today you should have read Genesis chapters 1-3.

After you complete each assignment please share your thoughts, questions and comments on the Forum discussion page. You can interact with other students as well. When you click on the Forum page you will be asked to register.

I will email students on a weekly basis to see how everyone is doing. And if you would like I can schedule a live conference call to talk directly. Just email me and let me know. If you registered you already have my email address. Please feel free to email me with any questions, feedback or concerns.

Overview

I'd like to start with a brief overview and background of what we will discuss then talk about the objectives for the class.

In the Book of Genesis, it tells us that when the Lord God created man and woman he called his creation "good." The Hebrew translation for "good" in this text is "beautiful." The Lord was pleased with what he had created. Man was pure and undefiled. He walked and talked with the Lord. He was surrounded by the glory of the divine presence and light of God.

He enjoyed a father-son relationship with the Lord. Man was destined for eternal life in a relationship with God, in a place described as paradise.

Overview

But then something happened to our forefather and mother, Adam and Eve. Something happened which separated them from the glory of God and which caused every human being that was birthed to also be separated from God. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree they were commanded not to eat from, something happened that caused Adam and all the generations of mankind that proceeded from Adam to be called sinners.

And briefly, a sinner is one who is separated from God, he has fallen short of the glory of God and has come under the condemnation of the Lord.

In the Garden of Eden the events that occurred in that fateful time are referred to as "the fall." Adam and Eve fell from their position of esteem and good standing with the Lord. They fell from paradise into a state of misery and distress.

Overview

Adam and Eve once pure and undefiled would now be cast out of the presence of God and the place the Lord had provided for them. They would now be called sinners as would all the generations of their children. The Scriptures state that every man, woman and child is born into this world as a sinner.

The Fall of Man class transcript

A sinner is described as a person who is separated from God, does not abide by the will of God and is under the condemnation or wrath of God, destined for eternal death and misery. For the scriptures state, the soul that sins shall perish.

Overview

All the generations of mankind, from the womb, including you and me would now be condemned. We would be under the wrath of God with only the expectation of eventual death and misery.

We then later learn that there was nothing man could do, on his own, that could reconcile him, or return him to his former relationship with the Lord. Man was permanently defiled in the eyes of God and destined for damnation which is eternal separation and death.

The only hope for mankind would be the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It would be Christ that would pay the penalty for man's transgressions against God and thereby become the gate in which any man who believed in Christ would receive mercy and pardon and thus be reconciled and restored to Adam's former relationship with the Lord.

Learning Objectives

Now lets talk about the objectives for this course.

As we explore what happened in the Garden of Eden. We want to answer the question "How did man become a sinner?" (and when I say man I refer to mankind: women, men and all the children and generations of Adam and Eve).

You will learn about the nature of man before and after the events that transpired in the Garden of Eden. You will begin to understand something of the nature of God. And you will learn something about the Gospel, the Good News - why the coming of Jesus Christ was needed for the salvation of man. And as part of this salvation, why those who are redeemed, or gathered unto the Lord, must be born again.

And the one thus born again, is restored to the original position of Adam, restored to a right relationship with the Lord for eternity in the Kingdom of God.

Creation

In the Book of Genesis the Scriptures state man was made in the image of God. First the body was created. The body of man was created in the image of God the Son, Jesus Christ. In the book of Daniel, Chapter 10 verse 6 we get the first recorded description of the Lord Jesus Christ in his eternal form. Approximately 164 years before the birth of Christ on earth.

"His body also *was* like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult."

This same description is given again by the Apostle John in the Book of Revelation, after the resurrection and ascent of the Lord, confirming to us his eternal form.

Thus we can say with confidence that the shape and form of man's body was in the image of God the Son, Jesus Christ, the first born of God's creations.

Then the Lord breathed into man's body and man became a living soul. The soul is the life force that animates the body and contains the spirit and the mind. Without the soul, the body is dead or lifeless. It is the soul that is eternal and lives because it comes from the breath of God which in the Scriptures is also referred to as the Spirit of God. Thus we can say the soul or life force of man is derived from and thus in the image of the Holy Spirit of God Almighty.

Creation

The soul of man contains a mind. The mind gives man his intelligence and the ability to think, reason and create and the ability to judge right from wrong. Thus we can say man's mind was created in the image of God the Father, the creator and judge of all things.

The soul of man also contains a spirit. In the Scriptures the spirit of man is also called the "heart". Therefore in the context of our discussions we will use interchangeably the words spirit and heart. The spirit of man is the source of desires and the center from which personality, affections, ego, love, and emotions come from.

Creation

The spirit of man can affect his mind. And the mind controls the actions of the body. In other words, it is the desires and beliefs and affections of a person that can influence their thinking which can then influence their body and physical actions. Thus, for example, my beliefs will affect my perceptions, understanding and thinking concerning things in the world. If my desires and beliefs change, then my thinking and perception will also change, which then affects how I conduct myself and behave.

The workings of the soul, and its spirit and mind, were all created by God and He said it was all good.

Summary

Let's summarize what we know about Adam and Eve thus far and man's original nature – what the Lord had created. In Genesis Chapter 1 verse 26 it says "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;" Thus our forefather and mother were created in the image of God the Son, God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit.

Man had a spirit or heart that allowed him to love and be loved – the heart is the center of man's passions and desires. As the Father loved the Son and the Son loved the Father so would man have the ability to love the Lord and love what God had made.

In Genesis chapter 2 we read that the Lord brought all the animals to Adam to see what he would name them. Therefore we know God gave man a mind that was vast, creative. A mind that could imagine and reason and think.

Adam and Eve had a knowledge of God, they walked with God. They knew God was their creator and the creator of all they could see and touch.

Man's Nature

Man was charged to take dominion over God's other creations and rule. So there was the ability and desire to govern and subdue. He was commanded to be fruitful and multiply so the desire for sex and to have children was part of man.

Man was also given free will which is the ability to choose to obey or disobey God.

In Eve we also read she could perceive beauty in the Garden and had a desire for wisdom.

Everything to this point in man was created by God and he called it all good and beautiful.

There was no fear, prejudice, or guilt in the heart of man. Adam and Eve were innocent and pure in the eyes of the Lord.

And food was provided thus all of man's needs were satisfied by God in a place called paradise. But only one restriction was given to Adam and Eve.

"From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." Genesis 2:16

The Tree

When we analyze the Hebrew translations of "good and evil" (tree of the knowledge of good and evil), the Hebrew for "good" is translated as "beautiful, pleasant." The Hebrew translation for "evil" in this verse means "distress, misery, affliction, adversity, and calamity." Upon eating the fruit Adam and Eve would be distressed. Having known beauty in the Lord, they would now be afflicted. They would experience both God and the Devil. Their souls, what God had called good, would know evil. A calamity, a tragedy, was about to unfold.

This was the great deception of the ages. The serpent, the Devil himself, tempted Eve with the prospect of infinite wisdom, to be like God without consequence, nullifying the commandment and warning from God. Eve believed her mind would be opened to a revelation of great knowledge. Yet, upon eating the fruit, wisdom did not come, but instead dread, shame, misery and eventual death.

Sin

So what exactly happened when Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil?

In Genesis Chapter 3 the first thing we read is that their eyes were opened and they realized they were naked. Then they covered themselves with fig leaves. Next we read that Adam and Eve heard the Lord walking in the Garden and hid themselves because as Adam stated "he was afraid because he was naked."

Then the Lord asked Adam "who told you that you were naked?" And before Adam could answer the Lord said "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

The Fall of Man

When we analyze these events in the context of the entire Scriptures, it uncovers an astonishing truth. First, when Adam's eyes were opened it was not physical as he could already see but what was meant was his perception of his surroundings, himself, and God were altered; they were changed. Before in Genesis Chapter 2 it stated he was naked and not ashamed. Nakedness was a normal state of being, how he was created and God said it was all good.

But now an inner voice came into his mind and told him he was without covering and being naked was a bad thing. We see here the first appearance of the human conscience – an inner voice in the mind - that would decide right and wrong, good and bad – apart from God.

And because his conscience said his nakedness was bad, Adam experienced for the first time a feeling of shame which caused him to cover himself.

Shame is defined as a painful feeling of humiliation or distress caused by the consciousness of unworthy or indecent conduct or circumstances. In other words, because Adam and Eve felt their nakedness was wrong, they saw themselves as pitiful.

Then when he heard the Lord walking in the Garden Adam experienced the feeling of fear. Fear is defined as a distressing emotion aroused by impending danger, evil, or pain. In this situation Adam felt that being seen naked, by God, would bring even more scorn, pain and humiliation to his already pitiful self image.

So what happened that caused this mind-altering perception of themselves to occur in Adam and Eve – for them to see themselves as naked and shameful? Where did this inner voice come from? Where did this feeling of fear come from? What happened that was so bad it caused the Lord to cast them out of the Garden, to curse them and that caused all their children to be born unclean, defiled, and corrupted in the eyes of God?

What actually happened when Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

Evil

Dear friends when Adam ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, a spirit cut from the same fabric as the Devil entered him, and joined to his soul. This spirit of evil joined itself to the spirit, the heart God had created in Adam and a transformation occurred. This evil spirit would become a permanent part of the human soul and form what we consider today human nature. A spirit created by God, that knew how to love, but a spirit that became corrupted and defiled with evil.

The human spirit was now permanently defiled in the eyes of the Lord. And every generation of mankind would inherit the nature of Adam, an evil nature (Romans 8:3) that the Apostle Paul would describe as a "slave to sin" (Romans 7:25). In other words, the spirit which came into man, would have a desire for evil and be subject to the power and dominion of the Devil, from which all evil originates.

A new voice entered the conscience of Adam. A voice that was of this new human spirit. And it knew itself and that it was shameful, and corrupted. Thus when Adam heard the Lord coming towards him, he hid, like a frightened animal, ashamed of his sinful self, unworthy to be in the presence of the Lord God.

All that God had created and called good and beautiful, would now be called evil, pitiful and shameful. The soul of man was corrupted and condemned.

Sin Nature

The corruption of man's spirit led to lusts, evil desires, and mad cravings. Lusts for murder, lusts to kill all types of life, jealousies, envy, money, power; lusts for food, drink, drugs that lead to addictions, bodily harm and even death; lusts for the same sex, rape, perversions, prostitution, pornography; lusts for rivalry, fighting, lusts for politics and to conquer and rule, and all manner of desires the Scriptures call ungodly. This is the chief characteristic of man's sin nature: lusts, evil desires. For the Apostle John tells us all that is in the world is the lusts of the flesh, and the lusts of the eye.

Not only was man's spirit corrupted by evil but so was his mind and body.

We read the mind of unbelievers are blinded to the truth (2 Corinthians 4:4) of the gospel by sin. The scriptures say men are unable to see the light of Christ who is the image of God. Man would no longer know God. The spirit and mind of man that was meant to be filled with the vast and immeasurable love and knowledge of God Almighty would be vacant and would instead be filled with all the world had to offer – which Solomon (Ecclesiastes) called vanity – translated as soap bubbles, things that are meaningless and worthless.

The blindness that came from sin would cause men to be led astray by every false prophet, religion and every lie perpetrated by Satan.

Then the mind became self-centered, and was filled with conceit, and arrogance – called pride in the Scriptures. God no longer ruled over Adam, but man in his own mind became the captain of his own fate, the master of his soul and in essence became a god in his own mind, seeking to do what was right in his own way (Isaiah 53:6). Man's transgression had led to a total rejection of the sovereign right of God over what he had created.

The mind overcome with this spirit of evil, would fear and despise his fellow man. From this corrupted mind would come prejudice, homophobia, racism, sexism, xenophobia and division amongst men.

Then man's body was also corrupted from the evil that entered Adam. Deformities, birth defects, disease, decay, premature death, and addictions would manifest themselves in the human race.

True to its name, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would bring the one who ate into an intimate acquaintance with misery, affliction and death.

All Have Sinned

The scriptures would then go on to tell us that all have sinned. The entire human race from Adam on, have sinned. That is we have all fallen short of the demands and minimum requirements to exist in God's Kingdom.

But before we go further, how do we know for sure this is what happened to Adam and Eve? That a spirit of evil entered and permanently transformed their souls? How do we know they and every human being born from our forefather and mother were permanently corrupted by a spirit that came from the Devil? The Bible gives us the answers.

First, the name of the tree itself, - the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. As we already mentioned, the Hebrew translation defines this text as "the acquaintance with beauty and misery and affliction." And when we interpret the name in the context of the entire scriptures we can also say it is the tree of the knowledge of God (good) and the Devil (evil). So when Adam ate the fruit we know something dramatic would take place. We knew the fruit of the tree would impart some sort of intimate experience with evil to the one who ate.

The next clue is the change that happened to Adam and Eve. When Adam bit into the fruit a transformation occurred. His perception of reality was altered. He now saw himself as naked. And then he felt shame and fear. When a person is overcome with fear the scriptures say a "spirit of fear" has come upon that person. (2 Timothy 1:7) A spirit is defined in the scriptures as an invisible force, like the wind.

And spirits have the ability to manipulate the perception, mind, thinking, and even words that come from a person's mouth (Matthew 16:23). Some can even manifest great power and miracles working through a person.

The Heart

And it gets worse. Out of the heart of man, the spirit of man, the scriptures tell us would now come all manner of evil desires, thoughts, perversions, anger, lies and murder. This human nature had a spirit that had desires and a will that would be called ungodly, corrupt and defiled. No longer pure and perfect.

Is man capable of being loving and kind? Yes, he was created in the image of God. But now out of the same spirit man would also be capable of incredible evil.

The same seed of evil marked by the vilest criminals and monsters in the history of mankind exists in every human born on earth. This monstrosity of corruption exists in you and me. It is only by the grace of God, who restrains evil, that mankind has not all become monsters. Yet the scriptures state we are all workers of iniquity – lawbreakers by nature.

The Heart

Out of man's sin nature come war, and division amongst the people, prejudice, hate, segregation, quarrelling and fighting, selfishness, idolatry, prostitution, and obscenity. Every term described on the slide you see, came from the Bible and describe the manifestations of sin.

The scriptures then calls man unholy, of a depraved mind and ultimately an enemy of God. Why a depraved mind. The Greek translation of "depraved" used in 2 Timothy 3:8 means "corrupted, perishing." Why an enemy of God? Enemy used in James 4:4 is translated as "hostile, hated." In other words the one who refuses to obey the Lord has become hostile and by his actions proves he hates God.

Does he actively, in his mind thinks he hates God? No, but by refusing to acknowledge the Lord and refusing to submit to God, the scriptures say man shows his utter disregard and rejection of God Almighty.

Dear friends, you must understand the law of God is black and white. There is no gray area. One either loves the Lord or he hates Him. One is either a son of God or a son of the Devil. The Bible tells us that to love the Lord means we obey Him (John 14:15). and the opposite is also true. To disobey God means we hate him.

Man is born as a "son of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2, 5:6). He is born with a spirit of evil in his nature. He is rebellious by nature because he refuses to submit to the law of God. To disobey the Lord, is to rebel and makes one an enemy of God, for the Lord has said the soul that sins shall perish.

The Heart

The scriptures say the heart of man, in its sinful state, a spirit born of the Devil, cannot obey the law of God. Notice the verse says "law" not "laws." What is the law of God? To love the Lord God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength (Matthew 22:36). And the evidence that you have loved the Lord is that you will love your neighbor as yourself, you will love your brothers and sisters in Christ, and you will love your enemies.

The desire of man's sin nature is to please himself, not to please God. This is perfectly illustrated in the story of the rich young ruler. (Mark 10:21) He had all the boxes checked as to how he could get to heaven, He told the Lord Jesus he had obeyed all the commandments since youth. Then the Lord Jesus said you lack one thing. He told the rich young man to give all his possessions to the poor and follow Christ. Upon hearing this the young man turned away sad, because he had great possessions.

You see he wanted to enter the Kingdom of God, he wanted to go to Heaven. He lived a moral and religious life. He was kind and honored his father and mother. He prayed on a regular basis and tithed to his church.

But his heart was far from God. His heart, his desires, his treasure, his passion were for the things of the world. His desire to go to heaven was to satisfy a self-centered desire for paradise and eternal life and to avoid the agony of Hell – not to worship, serve, love, follow, submit, become a bondservant and live in the presence of the Lord for eternity

The Lord Jesus said there is no such thing as a “good man.” (Mark 10:18) The Lord described those without God as “dead” even though they were still alive. Why? Because as sinners, their destiny was eternal death and misery.

The spirit of the Devil inherent in mankind will never submit to God and is evil incarnate, a spirit destined for destruction. Thus the Lord could do nothing to rehabilitate mankind. The only possibility for a permanently corrupted spirit was death and destruction.

Deceitful

Because the sin nature of man is permanent, a part of his soul, it is impossible for any man on his own effort or energy, to please God.

A person can give to charity, feed the poor, commit no crime, attend church regularly, live a moral life – and still end up in Hell. Why? All these things he has done without God. He may desire to help his fellow man, and may even be kind to his neighbor, but his heart does not desire God Almighty because it cannot. And no one who does not have a heart or spirit able to love the Lord Jesus, the scriptures tell us, will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. By nature man is a lawbreaker unable to satisfy the greatest law of God (Matthew 22:36) – which is to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

This scripture is important to understand in the context of man’s view of himself and salvation. The heart or spirit of a man was corrupted by the “father of lies,” the Devil.

The heart will deceive a man into thinking he is a good person and has done no wrong. Humans will create their own standards for salvation. They will believe they worship God in their particular religion or their personal way, and that they are “saved.” Yet the Bible tells us the activities and rituals of a religion any man can do without God.

The deceitful spirit or heart of an unredeemed man blinds him to the reality of his true relationship with God. That he is a sinner under the wrath and condemnation of the Lord. In his blindness man ignores the truth in the Scriptures; they ignore the commandments of God, and the Word of God.

The Broadway

Therefore the Lord would say the path to salvation is a narrow path and few find it – but the path to destruction is a broad way, filled with many who think they are right with God but whose hearts are far from him.

Men will serve false gods, kill in the name of God, engage in a form of godliness, partake in religion, appear religious, attend church religiously and believe they are in a right standing with the Lord? Yet their hearts are far from the Lord.

How can this be? The heart, the spirit of man, the evil nature, cut from the Devil, exists to serve the desires of itself, and will never willingly surrender to its enemy God Almighty.

The World

Every problem on earth and in the history of modern man can be traced to sin: poverty, disease, perversions, physical deformities, politics, crime, prejudice, hatred, war, divisions and vulgarity.

The god of this world the Lord Jesus says is the Devil. (2 Corinthians 4:4) And all that is in the world, the spirit of the world which controls and influences the behavior of the human race, is born of the Devil. And because the sin nature of man was also born of the Devil, all that is in the world is created to stir, appeal to and satisfy the sin nature of man, a spirit born of evil.

God is Holy

Now we must answer the question why did the Lord banish Adam and Eve from the Garden? Why did he not just forgive them? Why was the punishment death? And not only physical death, the death of the body, but also a second death- the death of the eternal soul on the Day of Judgment (Revelation 21:8). Why does the Lord proclaim the soul that sins shall die? (Ezekiel 18:4)

To answer this question we must understand something about the nature of the Lord God.

God is holy, and pure, and where there is light darkness cannot exist. In the Kingdom of heaven there is no evil, no place for evil spirits.

Throughout the scriptures we learn that the Lord God is holy, merciful and is love. But what does it mean that God is holy and righteous?

In the Old Testament we learn that the Lord is a God of perfection, righteousness, order and in Him there is no darkness. He demands perfect obedience and anything short of perfect obedience is called sin. And sin must be judged unless there is forgiveness and pardon.

Now that we have established what happened after Adam ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, let us examine the Lord's response to Adam and Eve. In his response we learn something about the nature of God which is reinforced throughout the entire scriptures.

Anything that is deemed unclean or filthy cannot exist in the presence of God or his chosen people. The Lord is called pure and light. He is called a consuming fire, in which his enemies, evil and sinners are destroyed (Hebrews 10:27)

As the Lord is holy, which means set apart, he demands that all his people be holy. Set apart from all that is sinful, unclean and unlawful according to God. The Lord has no fellowship with darkness and evil. And neither can his children.

The scriptures (Romans 1:18) state the wrath of God is upon all ungodliness. This means sinners can expect the wrath of God and the penalty of death on the Day of Judgment. (2 Corinthians 6:15). And all have sinned.

The disobedience of Adam could be forgiven, but what Adam became after he ate the forbidden fruit, a spiritual child of the Devil, an unclean creature with an evil heart, could not live in the presence of a holy and pure God and thus Adam and Eve were ejected from the Kingdom.

Consuming

The Lord God is called a consuming fire in the scriptures. In the Book of Revelation we learn that the lake of fire, the place where condemned souls are cast out in judgment, a place called Hell, comes from God Almighty. It is crucial to understand the Lord thy God is not only loving and merciful, but he is holy and righteous. And as a righteous God he must judge unrighteousness and sin.

Separation

A gulf now existed between man and God. A deep divide between heaven and hell. Man's fall in the Garden of Eden was severe. His separation from God was tragic and catastrophic in its consequences for you and me, and our children.

The Gate

Why cannot man's spirit come to God, obey God, and love God? It cannot love God because it is the enemy of God cut from the same fabric as the spirit of Satan – the ancient enemy of the Lord. A man can sacrifice his life to save another, as in battle, he can be a martyr and give his life for a cause. But no man on his own can ever obey the commandment to love Jehovah God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength - because his heart, the human spirit, exists to serve itself and is a slave to its sinful desires. No man can serve two masters. (Matthew 6:24)

Therefore to satisfy his own righteous law and yet show his mercy and love, the Lord God took upon himself the penalty for sin, the consequences of fallen man. The Lord Jesus became the gate of mercy and redemption, the way of reconciliation between God the Father and mankind.

The Gate

The Lord Jesus said he did not come to judge the world but to save it (John 12:47) Why? Because the entire world, including you and me were already condemned and destined for eternal misery.

Thus to save the lives of those who would repent, which means turn to and submit to God, the Lord Jesus Christ would give his life as a sacrifice to pay the penalty of sin. And the evidence that one was redeemed or rescued from death, and that they had believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and repented unto God, is that person would be born again.

A supernatural phenomenon would occur, the redeemed person would be given a new heart, a new spirit, that was pure in the eyes of God. A spirit without evil and sin. And this new spirit would have a desire for God. Not a desire for religion, not a desire to attend church for its own sake, not a desire to follow a religious leader, not a desire for religious traditions. No this new heart, the Spirit of Christ dwelling within, would have a desire to know and to please and to love God the Father and His only begotten Son Jesus Christ.

A New Heart

It would be the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God, all terms used interchangeably in the scriptures, which is the Spirit that comes into a man and makes him a new creature, able to love and obey God.

Once a person is born again it begins a process in which the person surrenders (submits) more and more to the will of God. And as the believer grows in identification with Christ, conforming to the image of Christ, he is able to crucify the desires of the “flesh” which refers to the sin nature of man.

(We will cover this topic in further depth in the God’s So Great Salvation series.)

Therefore the Apostle John could say, no one who is born again, who has the Son (Christ) within his heart, continues in the practice of sinning, because the Spirit of Christ dwells within and in Christ there is no sin. A person may fall unintentionally into sin, but when he does he will hate it, for he is now a son of God. He will then forsake it, ask the Lord for forgiveness and continue on the path of righteousness.

And this new heart would be the only way a person could obey God’s law – to love the Lord God, love his brothers and sisters in Christ, love his neighbors and love his enemies.

A New Heart

Yet the body that receives the Spirit of Christ is still sinful. Earlier we said not only was the spirit of man defiled but so was his mind and body. In the beginning a new convert, one who has been born again will realize there is a war within his body. (1 Peter 2:11, Galatians 5:17) Before there was no conflict. But now he realizes his thoughts and desires which were acceptable are gross and vile. What once was okay is now despised.

The born again man and woman now sees that his body’s desires, inclinations, impulses and thoughts are contrary to the will of God. This struggle is described in detail by the Apostle Paul in Romans chapter 7.

However there is victory. For the scriptures state the Spirit of Christ that dwells within is more powerful than the Devil. As one grows up into Christ and is conformed to the image of Christ, by the Spirit, the desires and sin nature that dwelt within will die. The mind is renewed. (Ephesians 4:23) The sin nature of man is never fully eradicated while we live in this body of flesh and blood. However, the born again soul is no longer a slave to its desires and no longer under the influence of its master the Devil.

Revelation of Sin

The revelation or knowledge of and awareness of one’s own sin nature is one of the evidences that a person is born again. The Spirit of Christ in the soul of the believer reveals the depth of the darkness and vileness of sin in your nature and you will abhor it. The Lord does this to accomplish several purposes in the life of the believer.

The first is to crush the pride of man, the ego, the rebellious spirit that makes a man think he is somehow a good person, better than his fellow man. He does this to crush the spirit of prejudice, judgment

and fear towards your fellow man. When one sees the darkness of his own soul he is humbled and realizes but for the grace of God he lives. The man so humbled becomes gentle and meek in soul. He knows, in a very deep and profound experience, that if not for the love and mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ he would be doomed.

Revelation of Sin

As we fully realize the depth of our sin nature, the believer then develops a fear of God. He feels the same way the Lord does about sin and he understands the depth of God's wrath towards sin. He is loath to chastise sin in another when he realizes the depth of sin from which the Lord has saved him. He understands the Lord's hedge of protection, in this world, is broken when one sins. This fear of God, the scriptures state, will keep you from sinning and further humbles the believer.

Revelation of Sin

Then the revelation of sin in the soul of the believer brings one to an understanding of their total unworthiness before a holy and pure God. It is a knowledge that they deserve the wrath of God. Thus the atoning sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ for his sin takes on immense meaning and brings one to his knees in tears and brokenness. He realizes that but for the Love of God he would be doomed. This revelation brings one even closer to the Lord in an undying love and submission and surrender of self to serve the Lord.

It is this love of God which brings a depth of understanding to the Good News, or Gospel of Jesus Christ and a deep understanding of salvation and what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Without an in-depth understanding of sin, and one's own sin nature, a person will develop a superficial view of salvation and a superficial view of Christianity. When you realize your own unworthiness and iniquity and your complete inability to save yourself, then you will come to know the preciousness and depth of love offered by the Lord God.

Good Tree Bad Tree

The Scriptures give warning throughout the entire text that many men will come to the assembly of God who look the same and profess Jesus Christ is Lord. Yet God who sees the heart knows the difference. In Luke 6:43, we read of two trees, a good tree that bears good fruit and a bad tree that bears evil fruit. One is born of God the other still under the wrath of God and a child of the Devil.

Two Houses

In Matthew 7:24 we read of two houses. One built on the rock, Jesus Christ and the other built on sand. Both profess Jesus Christ to be Lord, yet one is born of God the other still a slave to his sin nature.

Wise Foolish

Then in Matthew 25:2 we read of ten virgins, five were called wise and five were called foolish. All professed Jesus Christ to be Lord and expected to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Yet the five called foolish, the Lord Jesus would say "I never knew you" and were cast into outer darkness. Five were born of God and the other five were still under the wrath of God. To the eye, there would be no discernible

difference. In the congregation all looked like followers of Christ. But God who sees the heart knows his people.

Therefore the Apostle Paul would warn the people to examine their heart, to test themselves, to see if they are truly in the faith, if they have been given a new heart and a new spirit that desires and loves the Lord God. (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Pure in Heart

By nature we are born with hearts that are defiled. So who are the pure in heart that will see God? (Matthew 5:8, Psalm 24:3). It is the one who has the Son, the one with whom the Spirit of Christ abides. The atoning sacrifice of the Lord Jesus made it possible for the Lord to forgive our sins. But who we were was unchanged. Thus it is the Spirit of Christ that comes into the soul of a repentant heart and makes us pure in the eyes of God Almighty. Pure as when Adam and Eve were first created. It is the heart of Christ that enables the blessed to overcome sin in the world and sin in our bodies. It is Christ the Redeemer that satisfies all our needs and reconciles us to the Father. It is the heart of Christ that is pure. Thus all who abide in Christ and Christ in them are also pure in heart.

Summary

Let's summarize what we have learned.

- (1) Adam and Eve were created in the image of the Lord God
- (2) They were created with a body and a soul in the image of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- (3) Adam had a mind and spirit and desires that would enable him to fulfill God's plan for his life
- (4) Everything the Lord created he called good
- (5) Man was created with free will and could choose to obey or disobey God
- (6) When Adam and Eve transgressed God's commandment to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they were cursed and came under God's condemnation
- (7) The fruit Adam and Eve ate caused a transformation in them. It would cause them to know evil in a very intimate, permanent and tragic way. A spirit of evil entered and joined to their souls. This spirit of evil was born from the same spirit as the Devil. Now all the desires that came from their heart the Lord would call evil. Man would not be able to obey God's law. Man had the seed of Satan within him and had become a spiritual child of the Devil
- (8) While God loved what he had created, he abhorred what Adam had become after he ate the fruit. All the generations of mankind that came from Adam and Eve, including you and me, would have this spirit, called the human spirit, a sinful nature which was corrupted by evil.

Summary

(9) All the generations of man would come under the condemnation of God- and would be called children of the Devil and sinners. A sinner is the one who has fallen short of the will of God. And The Lord declared the soul that sins shall die.

(10) All the problems of society can be attributed to the sin nature of man

(11) The god of this world, the Lord says, is the Devil and all men by nature are slaves to sin (evil) and thus under the influence of the Devil

(12) There is nothing man can do out of his own energy or effort to change his sin nature.

(13) Nothing he can do on his own to reconcile him to God and avoid the penalty for sin which is Hell. A permanent divide, a chasm existed between man and God.

(14) Only the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, on the cross, could atone for man's sin and usher in God's salvation for those that would repent and submit their lives to God.

(15) Those that repented unto God would be redeemed – given pardon and eternal life - and the evidence of their redemption was they were born again by the Spirit of God.

(16) The redeemed are given a new heart, a new spirit, the Spirit of Christ, that would enable them to obey, desire and love the Lord with all their soul, mind, and strength. With the indwelling Spirit, one becomes a son or daughter of the living God, begins conforming to the image of Christ and is able to overcome his sin nature and sin in the world.

Love the Lord thy God

(17) And the evidence that a person has been born again and loves the Lord thy God, is that they will love their brothers and sisters in Christ, they will love their neighbors as themselves, and they will love their enemies. This love of God and the Lord Jesus Christ and love of those that God commands us to love, is the only true evidence that a person has passed from death to life. And to this one so blessed, the Lord himself witnesses to his spirit and cries out "Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:6, Romans 8:16)

CLOSING REMARKS

We cannot as teachers, proclaim "how to be saved" before we make sure the people truly understand "why they need to be saved" through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Without this proper teaching about the sin nature of man, you will have your churches and Sunday schools filled with people seeking heaven, seeking eternal life, seeking answers to their everyday life problems. Yet they will never surrender their life completely to Jesus Christ because they do not truly understand their predicament.

It is only when one has gotten to a state where they feel lost, that they can truly be open to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At this point they have become convicted of their lost estate, of their unworthiness before a holy God, and they have lost all faith in themselves to pull out of their condition.

The Fall of Man class transcript

To this poor soul, the one in need, the Spirit of the Lord in conjunction with the Word of God has removed their blindness and allowed them to see themselves as God sees them: naked and pitiful. A repentant heart has seen its sin nature and abhors it and through the grace of God knows that only God Almighty can rescue him from the pit of darkness. And in repentance they seek the mercy and grace of our Lord. Only then will the Lord give them a new heart, a new spirit, and make the sinner a new creature.

The one so blessed receives a heart to love the Lord, is spiritually taken out of the world of darkness and into the light of the Kingdom. Out of death and into life.

But without a repentant heart, those that come seeking God at the doors of our churches and homes, are on a fool's journey that will only end in disappointment.

So again, we must first teach and proclaim "why a person must be saved." We must teach about the fall of man and the wrath of God upon the ungodly, before we can teach "how to be saved"

Closing Remarks

In closing I leave you with a scripture that I take extremely seriously as a watchman for the Lord God. And if you are a Sunday school teacher or a small group leader, then I urge you take the position God has granted you with seriousness and soberness, for through your works the souls of many can be saved.

Ezekiel 3:17

"Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; **whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me.** "When I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, **but his blood I will require at your hand.** "Yet if you have warned the wicked and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; **but you have delivered yourself.**

"Again, when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I place an obstacle before him, he will die; since you have not warned him, he shall die in his sin, and his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand. "However, if you have warned the righteous man that the righteous should not sin and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; and you have delivered yourself."

Amen and Amen, Praise the Lord my God, my Savior, my Father and my friend.

