

Unpacking the Gospel

Class 2: The Sinfulness of Man

July 12th, 2023



I. The Fall of Man (Genesis 3)

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. (Genesis 3:6-7)

A. Rooted in nature: man's limitations

"By the sweat of your face You will eat bread Until you return to the ground, For from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19)

B. Rooted in temptation: the enemy's attack

3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

C. Cosmic results: death, evil, shame, and separation from God

To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." 17 And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:16-19)

D. The Promise: Redemption is Coming!

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." (Genesis 3:15)

II. The Fallenness of man¹

A. Key biblical terms

- 1. Depravity/corruption (*porneria*)**
- 2. Disobedience (*parakoe*)**
- 3. Error (*shogag*)**
- 4. Guilt (*asham*)**
- 5. Godlessness (*asebeia*)**
- 6. Ignorance (*agnoeo*)**
- 7. Iniquity (*owel*)**
- 8. Lawless (*anomia*)**
- 9. Lust (*epithymia*)**

¹ Adapted from "Human Sinfulness" in *Theology for the Church*

10. Missing the mark (*chata/harmatia*)
11. Perversion (*awa*)
12. Rebellion (*pesh/pasha*)
13. Transgression (*abar*)
14. Treachery (*ma'al*)
15. Wickedness (*ra*)
16. Unrighteousness (*adikia*)

B. Essential nature of sin

1. Disruption of peace
2. Idolatry
3. Selfishness
4. Pride
5. Sensuality
6. Rebellion
7. Unbelief

III. The Sinfulness of Man and the Gospel

A. Lawbreaking requires punishment.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

B. Sin requires atonement.

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

C. Separation requires reconciliation.

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

D. Falleness requires restoration.

For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. 18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:17-19)