

NOW WHAT?

Back to the Basics

DOCTRINE – Part 3

TRUTHS ABOUT THE FALL

INTRODUCTION

*Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
And all the king's horses and all the king's men,
Couldn't put Humpty Dumpty together again.*

In our children's books we have a picture of an egg. The rhyme says nothing about eggs. There is good support that children were taught this rhyme to teach them about the Fall¹. None of the resources of the king could repair the damage.

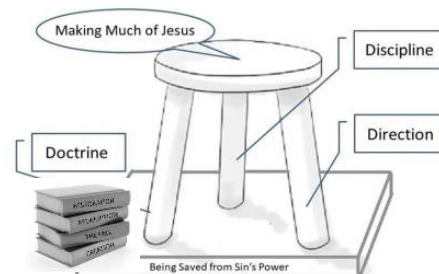
The term, "The Fall" refers to an event where Adam and Eve who were in a state of innocence and obedience to God, moved into a state of guilt and condemnation before God – and with their demise, the whole world and all who have ever lived were forever changed.

Calling that event "the Fall" is like calling a 5-vehicle pile-up a traffic incident. As we look at Truths or Doctrines that we need to know at a basic level, The Fall, is essential. I think that the most important truth to take from Adam and Eve's sin, is to think of it like spray foam. It is so widespread, that it has occupied every single nook and cranny in life and the environment. It is so evil that Israel needed to make atonement for even the sins committed in holy things (Exodus 28:38). Jerry Bridges once wrote: "Even our tears of repentance need to be washed in the blood of the Lamb."² The Puritans tried to inform us by coining a phrase: *the sinfulness of sin*.

No, it is an understatement to say, "The Fall". The was the most calamitous even in all history that has had cosmic proportion.

Read Genesis 3:1-7.

Now What?



¹ https://bible.org/seriespage/6-paradise-lost-genesis-31-7#P3_263

² <http://www.lifeway.com/leadership/2016/03/14/life-changing-quotes-from-jerry-bridges/>

This passage recounts this first sin that led to such devastation. **Why did the transgression of two individuals cause such universal and all-inclusive damage?** The answer to that is wrapped up in a term we call “original sin”.

TRUTH ABOUT THE TRANSFER OF SIN

Christians understand that somehow the sin of Adam and Eve has become our sin. How did that occur? Turn with me to Romans 5:12–21 (ESV):

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ 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. ²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Between verses 15-19 we see that 5 times Paul writes that because of one man's sin, sin entered the world. This passage teaches us something of God's justice system. God transferred the guilt of one man Adam to the whole world. God recognized Adam as the “gateway” (so to speak) for sin to befall all human beings over all time. Someone might say, “That was not fair of God to make everyone guilty because of a man that lived so long ago, that we did not even know!” But Paul's point is that by transferring the guilt of one man to everyone, God would then be just to transfer the righteousness of one man to everyone. Note:

“Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 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 5:18–19, ESV)

It may not seem “fair” that we are saddled with Adam's guilt and sin, but neither is it “fair” that simply by faith we receive the righteousness of Jesus. But this is how God has planned our salvation. The point is that every single person is born into this world with a sin nature because we have all inherited Adam's sin. Here's what we need to know: ***We are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners.*** So many times when we talk about sin we think in terms of individual sins we have committed; we also have a tendency to think, “I'm not as bad as so-and-so”, etc. Individual sins are a problem, but the real problem is that we are born with a sin nature – we have inherited Adam's sin.

It is also why we need to be “born-again”. Our first birth transferred the guilt and sin of Adam to our nature. Our second birth (the New Birth) transfers the righteousness and holiness of Christ to our nature.

So how sinful are we? How far does this sin reach us?

TRUTHS ABOUT THE EXTENT OF THE FALL

The bottom-line is that when we are born on this planet sin affects our whole being. There is not one corner of our human nature not affected by sin. Sin affects:

- a. The will (John 8:34; also, Ephesians 2:1-3; 2 Peter 2:19);
- b. The mind (1 Corinthians 1:21; also, Genesis 6:5; Ephesians 4:17);
- c. The emotions (John 3:19; also Isaiah 48:22); and
- d. The behaviour (Romans 8:7; also, Romans 3:12)

These are only a sampling of the effect of sin on our whole being – through and through. Romans 3:10–18 (ESV) is horrible picture of mankind apart from the grace of God:

¹⁰ as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” ¹³ “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” ¹⁴ “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” ¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known.” ¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

The very core of our being which is called our heart is “deceitful and desperately wicked” (Jeremiah 17:9). We actually love sin (John 3:19; John 8:34) so much that we will not seek God (Romans 3:10-11) because we love the darkness of sin (John 3:19). It is impossible for us in this state to understand the things of God (1 Corinthians 2:14). When we hear truth we try to ignore it; we stuff it so we can keep doing the sin we love (Romans 1:18) Of course, all of this seems right to us (Proverbs 14:12) so we reject the gospel of Christ as foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:18). Our minds are “hostile toward God” and we neither want to obey God, nor are we able to obey God, in this condition. (Romans 8:7).

We are born in sin and born “dead in sin” (Psalm 51:5, Psalm 58:3, Ephesians 2:1-5). The Bible teaches that because unsaved man or woman is “dead in transgressions” (Ephesians 2:5). In this fallen state, we are left unfit for God’s presence (Psalm 5:5). In addition to this severe diagnosis, in our condition as sinners even the good things we do are like “filthy rags” before God (Isaiah 64:6). Imagine, even our attempts to do good things make us guilty before God.

CONCLUSION

It is an understatement to say that this assessment is severe and troubling. Left in this state we are hopeless, we are unable to save ourselves. A SS teacher was seeking to instruct their students in the extent of sin. He or she wanted the students to see how bad it was, so the teacher used an illustration

of a computer processor. Step by step the teacher showed them how a virus had infected every part of the computer. The speed of the computer was once over 2 gigs but now operating at 100 megs. The large RAM was now down to a tenth its capacity. The Hard Drive storage was significantly reduced, and so on. Beloved all that is true, but the teacher forgot the most important effect of the virus: the computer was dead. There was no response and there could not be any response, until someone brought life into the system. This is the condition of unbelieving men and women:

Turn with me to Ephesians 2:1–5 (ESV)

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

APPLICATION

Why is it important for Christians to not forget the devastating effects of sin? I think this quote from C.H. Spurgeon helps us:

“Too many think lightly of sin, and therefore think lightly of the Saviour. He who has stood before his God, convicted and condemned, with the rope about his neck, is the man to weep for joy when he is pardoned, to hate the evil which has been forgiven him, and to live to the honour of the Redeemer by whose blood he has been cleansed.”³

When we see the utter wickedness of our sinful hearts, and then realize the abundant grace and mercy of our Lord and Saviour, we will be caught up in wonder, love, and praise to Him for His glorious, sovereign grace!

³ <https://www.challies.com/general-news/a-great-savior/>