

I. Review

- ◆ What happened in the Fall? Separation from God's presence (Gen. 3:8, 4:16). The reign of death (Rom. 5:12-14). Adam's sin affected all (Psa. 51:4-6; Rom. 3:9-11). Human beings came under the power of the evil one (2 The. 2). God revealed himself as Judge (Gen. 3:22-24; 18:25; 1 Pet. 1:14-19). Creation was subjected to futility (Gen. 3:17-19; Rom 8:19).

II. Temptation, Sin, and Shame (Gen. 3:1-7)

When the woman saw...it was a delight to the eyes,...to be desired, she took...and ate, and she also gave some to her husband...and he ate.

The appeal to carnal desires is very important. It was a desire "to make one wise" through transgression of God's will. The serpent's offer amounted to *independence* and autonomous self-gratification.

Man has stepped outside the state of dependence; he has refused obedience and willed to make himself independent. The guiding principle of his life is no longer obedience but his autonomous knowing and willing, and thus he has really ceased to understand himself as creature.¹

The apostle James warns of the allure of transgression through the desires.

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (James 1:14-15)

- ◆ Christians are called to deny their carnal desires by the Spirit. Paul the apostle warns us against lust and calls it Idolatry (Colossians 3:5). Idolatry is placing something above God. A singular God calls us to singular devotion.

Satan wants to defile us by getting us to fulfill our desires through transgression. He wants to persuade you toward independence. He wants you to exalt your autonomy above your reliance on God.

He does not compete with God in the realm of power, but he deals in deception. He draws us away with lies to defile us. He gets us to crawl in the dirt and fulfill our own desires. He gets us to bite the fruit, and he strikes us with shame. (Genesis 3:7)

When people become defiled and ashamed and suffer, they often become cynical and hate themselves, and they hate God. Shame causes separation and self-destruction. Satan's power is in the realm of shame and accusation.

- ◆ Be careful not to sin. You are called to put to death the desires of your body that transgress God's boundaries and lead to independence. (Philippians 3:18-19)
- ◆ Walk in the light and confess your sins (1 John 1:5-10).
- ◆ Be careful how you suffer. Cast your anxieties upon the Lord rather than imbibe a root of bitterness (1 Pet. 5:7).

¹ Gerhard Von Rad, Genesis, The Old Testament Library. Revised ed. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1972), 97.

While we are sinners and worthy of judgment, shame tells the lie that we are not worthy of love or salvation.

III. God's Pursuing Heart (Genesis 3:8-13)

Even though Adam and Eve hid from God's presence, he pursued them. We see this in the questions that God asks. 1) **"Where are you?"** 2) **"Who told you that you were naked?"** 3) **"Have you eaten of the tree?"** 4) **"What is it that you have done?"**

These questions reveal God's pursuing heart. He loves sinners and does not want them to perish (2 Peter 3:9).

God will repeat similar questions to Cain after he kills his brother. "Where is Abel?" And "What have you done?"

In Christ, God seeks and finds those who are lost. (Luke 19:10; 15:3-10)

There is another hint in Genesis 3 of God's pursuing heart: We see the first provision of a sacrifice to cover Adam and Eve. (Genesis 3:21)

IV. God's Loved for the World

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him (John 3:16-17)

- A. God loves the world. He gave his son to save sinners who were lost.
- B. There are 10,398, of which 4,482 are considered *Unreached People Groups*, with less than 2% of the population being Christ followers. 3,200 of those are *Frontier People* groups, comprising 2,020,000,000 people, with less than .01% Christian population.²
- C. The primary way that God pursues the lost is through his people. (Rom. 10; Gal. 3:2; 1 Pet. 1:23)

What is God's solution to the lostness of those around the world?

² joshuaproject.net