

Man Separates Himself from God

By Bryan Ellis (20150323)

In the previous article God's primary characteristic of holiness was extolled. In this article the chasm between a holy God and an unholy man is reviewed. In the beginning God created everything and saw that it was "very good" according to Genesis 1:31. Though some might dispute it, Genesis 2 seems to be a more detailed explanation of what occurred in Genesis 1:27-30 rather than something that occurred after day 6 was complete. Man's creation as a living soul housed within a fleshly body was a special creation by God making man "in His image". No other creature created had this special relationship with God. Genesis 2:19-20 shows that God paraded the other creatures before man so he could name them. This act also showed that no other creature was similar to man and cannot support man as a suitable helper. God now creates woman for man starting from the man's rib instead of from dust or nothingness. This gives a special relationship between woman and man since woman "was taken out of man" in Genesis 2:23. Both man and woman were ruled by God's laws set forth in Genesis 1:28-20 and Genesis 2:16-17. Verse 25 shows that before separation from God the man and woman were not ashamed and were innocent.

Genesis 3 tells of the downfall of man and the marring of the creation which until that time had been "very good". Woman seems to understand God's laws by repeating them to the serpent in the first part of Genesis 3. Due to the deception of the serpent and her fleshly desires (James 1:13-15) she eats of the tree in the midst of the garden. She also gives to the man and he eats. Being the keeper of the garden it would be hard to imagine that the man did not know where the fruit originated and that it was forbidden. By eating of the forbidden fruit the man and woman had sinned (a transgression of God's law – 1 John 3:4). Immediately there were consequences for this action. Genesis 3:7 shows that something is different because they are now ashamed to be naked. Verse 8 shows they are now afraid of God and hide from His presence. God curses the serpent for deceiving them, the woman for her sin, and the ground for man's sin. From that moment on the earth was no longer "very good" because God punished the creation for man's sin. God covered them with coats of animal skin and thrust them out of the Garden of Eden. Without access to the Garden of Eden man can no longer live forever physically because he cannot access the tree of life. Of course the world of today is far less "very good" due to the changes that occurred during the Flood after the totality of man's sin became so unbearable to God that He "repented that He had made man on the Earth" (Genesis 6:6).

Some believe that the sin of the man and woman in the Garden is inherited by all of their descendants. This is the belief of total depravity since all humans born since the creation have sin on their soul without even knowing good from evil. This then leads to infant baptism, irresistible grace, and many other doctrines to find a way for salvation from the doom inherited at birth. The Bible paints a very different picture. Isaiah 59:2 states that "your iniquities have separated between you and your God". The Jews had a problem with thinking that they were being punished with captivity in Babylon because of the sin of their forefathers. Ezekiel 18 is God's message to them that they have their own iniquities to pay for, not those of their forefathers. James 1:13-15 states that each person is drawn away from God by his own lusts and then decides to sin. Were infants born in sin we would need to explain how Jesus could be innocent even though He was born as a man. The doctrine of the "Immaculate Conception" tries to do this but now we need His mother Mary to be innocent as well, not just Jesus, so all that has happened is a doubling of the doctrinal problem.

The Bible speaks plainly that sin is a personal transgression against God's law. Any sin makes a soul unholy and causes separation from God. Romans 3:23 states that all have sinned. Romans 6:23 states that the wages of – payment owed for – sin is death just like God told the man and woman at the beginning. Nowhere is it stated that Adam sinned and gave that sin as an inheritance to all mankind. What was provided to all mankind by Adam's sin is physical death due to the removal of man from the presence of the Tree of Life (1 Corinthians 15:21-22).

The next article will discuss the "free gift of God" that allows man to have a relationship with a Holy God even though he has sinned and become unholy.

Copyright © 2015 by [Bryan Ellis](#). All rights reserved world wide

Permission to use this article unmodified is granted.

Questions, corrections, or link/topic suggestions may be emailed to [Bryan Ellis](#).