

God and His Ways

Scripture References

Genesis 3; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; 1 Timothy 2:14; Romans 5:12-21

All people are influenced by sin. Realizing the truth about sin is necessary to conquering it in your own life.

Adam's Moral Nature

God created man (male and female) as perfect beings, but He enabled them to serve Him voluntarily by giving them one way to disobey Him.

Adam had a free will and a mind capable of weighing choices.

As created, Adam and Eve had no _____ to sin. This means that every thought and desire of their hearts were pure, loving, and righteous.

Adam possessed unconfirmed (because he had neither passed nor failed the test) creature (because his holiness was not the same as the Creator's) holiness (because he was more than innocent).

The Test (Genesis 2:16-17)

Ultimately the test was whether Adam and Eve would obey God or not.

In setting a test at all, God showed that He wanted men to voluntarily choose to obey Him and to serve Him.

By way of contrast, how many ways can we show our obedience or disobedience to God in the course of a single day?

Satan's Temptation Strategy

A counterfeit, of course, attempts to come as close to the genuine article as possible, while leaving something costly out. A master counterfeiter, Satan, approached Eve with the suggestion that his plan was like God's but without the restriction of total obedience. Satan had hinted at the possibility that God had placed too-sweeping restrictions on them, and Eve began to entertain that thought.

The pattern the serpent used to persuade the woman to disobey God appears throughout Scripture.

- Cast doubt on the character of God.
- Deny God's Word.
- Accuse God of jealousy and selfishness.
- Desire to be like God.

Genesis 3 Example

The woman concluded three things about the fruit of the forbidden tree:

- It was good for food.
- It had a pleasing appearance.
- It would bring the eater unknown wisdom.

On these bases, she eats it. Then she gives some to Adam, and he eats it. The woman disobeyed God. Then the man disobeyed God also.

Luke 4 Example

- Tell this stone to become bread.
- I will give You all this domain and its glory, if You worship before me.
- Throw Yourself down from here (the pinnacle of the temple).

Satan seeks to focus people's attention on the present rather than on _____.

Sin

There is not a general word like the English word sin in either Hebrew or Greek. The Bible uses words like rebellion, transgression, failure, pollution, and stubbornness.

Matching

_____ Rebellion	A. Rot – like disease or mold that corrupts everything it touches
_____ Transgression	B. Steady refusal to repent when rebuked
_____ Pollution	C. Actively violating known law in direct conflict with the authority that made the law
_____ Stubbornness	D. Going out of bounds and doing something that is forbidden

After Adam sinned, he and his descendants could only beget sinners, so all men are under the sentence of death, the penalty of sin.

- All sin affects others.
- Once committed, sin can never be _____.

Examples

Adam and Eve, once expelled, could not return to the Garden on Eden.

Esau could not retrieve the birthright he sold (Heb. 12:16-17).

Moses could not personally enter the Promised Land but could only see it from a distance because of his sin (Num. 20:12, Deut. 3:27).

The kingdom was taken from Saul and his descendants because they did not wait for Samuel to come and offer the sacrifices (1 Sam. 13:13-14).

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- Disobedience may eliminate opportunities for service by disqualifying one from a position of leadership.

Key Observations about Temptation

- It appeals to you to fulfill legitimate God-given desires in ways that God has forbidden.
- The same three appeals still tempt humans to sin – lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. (1 John 2:16)

The Penalties

1. A sense of guilt. Hiding from God. Spiritual and physical death to the race.
2. The serpent was condemned to crawl.
3. Enmity will exist between Satan's seed (all the lost, John 8:44; Eph. 2:2) and the woman's seed (all the family of God). An individual from the woman's seed (Jesus Christ) will deal a death blow to Satan's head at the cross (Heb. 2:14, 1 John 3:8) while Satan will cause Christ to suffer.
4. God would multiply women's sorrow in conception – childbirth would now be accompanied by pain. Women will be ruled by men, a necessary hierarchical arrangement for a sinful world.
5. The ground was cursed because of Adam's sin, increasing his work to make it produce. Adam and mankind would return to the dust of the ground at death. Adam and Eve were driven from the garden.

Conclusion

Driving Adam and Eve from the garden was both a punishment and an act of mercy, lest they should eat of the tree of life and live forever in a state of death and alienation.

Humanity quickly became sinful. Adam excused his sin (Gen. 3). Cain denied his sin (Gen. 4). Lamech boasted of his sin (Gen. 4).

Romans 5:12-21 – Paul contrasts death in Adam with life in Christ. Just as Adam's sin brought certain results, so did the death of Christ. Yet this does not mean automatic salvation, for men must receive the grace God offers.

God is _____ because He made provision for the salvation of every human being who wants salvation more than sin. His self-sacrificing provision for our salvation proves how unassailably _____ He is.

God is the judge of all mankind by right of creation and moral supremacy. He judges based on what He considers right. He has the absolute moral right and the power to do as He wishes. God judges sin. God punishes sinners. The ultimate punishment for sin is eternal suffering in the lake of fire (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:14-15).

Reference

God and His Ways Teacher's Edition, by Layton Talbert, Ph.D., BJU Press 2001.

Basic Theology, by Charles C. Ryrie, pp. 201-206.

Fill in the Blanks

φΠω'ΑΨΣ
ΣωΣψφΤωΗ
ΑφρΧφΣ
τ'ΑΩω
οΠΤψ