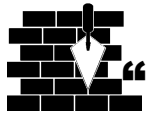


ADAM & EVE - "The Roots Of Our Real Family Tree"



"Building Blocks"

1. **(Intro Scriptures)** The closing verse of (our) chapter 2 in Genesis (remember, when Moses wrote this, it was one long story!) really sets the stage for the account of the Fall in chapter 3. This verse stands in stark contrast to 3:7. The same two people are now ashamed of their nakedness in each other's presence! The *natural* ability to be totally vulnerable *and* safe (i.e. "intimacy") was lost in the Fall. For any married couple to be truly intimate now is only possible through great effort and deliberation. *It will not and cannot happen by itself!*
2. **(Intro Scriptures)** Perhaps the most important question we should continually ask ourselves as believers is what God asked Adam after He finally "found" him: "Who told you that...?" The issue of what the authority, the final word is, for each of us, is huge! What is our standard of Truth to which we are ultimately accountable. Everyone of us truly *has* an inner answer to that question. The issue is, what is *my* answer?
3. **(Intro Scriptures)** God *never* asks anyone a question in the Bible because He is looking for information! It is *always* to cause the one He's addressing to deal with something in their own life or relationship with Him. (E.g. Cain - "Where is your brother?" or Eve - "What is this you have done?" or Jonah - "Should I not care for the children and livestock of Nineveh?", etc.)
4. **(Q1 & 3)** It's *very* important as you go through this study with others that you are clear on the differences between what is asked for in Questions 1 & 3. The first question is seeking to establish the vast extent of my problem with God *on moral grounds*; i.e. "guilt." The second question is designed to expand the person's understanding of the extent of sin in the world and in their own life and relationships; *all of them!*
5. **(Rom. 7:15-22)** Paul's statements here contain the pronoun "I" 23 times! But, if you read it carefully, you will see clearly that Paul seems to be talking about two different "I's." One is the converted Paul or the "new" Paul, and the other is the "natural" or "old" Paul.
6. **(Q1)** The identical word for "condemnation" (a damning sentence of pronouncement) that is used in Romans 5:16,18 is used in Romans 8:1. Whatever it entails, those "in Christ" are free of it! (These are the only 3 places in the NT this noun is used.)
7. **(Q1)** The Greek word translated "judgment" in Hebrews 9:27 carries with it the notion of "separating" or "dividing." There will come a time when God will separate people from one another on some basis. The question is: what is the basis of this "judgment?"



"Stumbling Stones"

1. **(Intro Scriptures)** The question, "Why did God make Adam & Eve in the first place if He already knew the outcome?" is ultimately unanswerable. Speculating may be fun or frustrating, but never will be fruitful. Don't engage it.
2. **(Intro Scriptures)** There are some who believe/teach that Paul's autobiographical confession in Romans 7 of his relentless battle with sin is really a sort of "flashback" to his preconversion days. They see Romans 8 as the description of the "new" Paul; 2 Cor. 5:17 seems to provide support to this idea.

But, this view does *not* do justice to Paul's fuller teaching on this subject. Passages like Gal. 5:16-18 about believers in general, and 1 Tim. 1:15 about Paul in particular teach that Paul (and us!) was engaged in a lifelong battle with sin within himself. (E.g. the verb "I am" in 1 Tim. 1:15 means, "I am in an ongoing state of...")

3. **(Q1 - Rev. 20:15)** The idea of marginally moral people suffering the same fate as Satan himself troubles us because we are stuck on the notion of “relative goodness” being God’s standard of judgment rather than absolute righteousness. Therefore, a “graded” punishment makes more sense for a “graded” goodness.



“Going Deeper”

1. **(Q8-10)** These 3 questions form the heart of this chapter. Their combined goal is to enlarge the reader’s understanding of the *extent* of sin way beyond the issues of moral guilt for sins committed; the idea that “sin has created a problem between me and God.” These questions expose what a person’s current understanding is about sin and salvation.
- The goal is to help them come to see their entire Christian life is God “saving” (i.e. redeeming) them. Dealing with their *guilt* before God is the essential first step, but it is *not* the whole story of what salvation includes. Thinking that being “saved” is merely a forensic issue of dealing with guilt causes Christians to think of salvation as being completed, and Christian “behavior” merely a good thing to do. They miss the immense truth that salvation is “God’s answer to sin,” which means it addresses *everything* that sin has ruined.
2. **(Q11-13)** Read Romans 8:32. The entire chapter is about our salvation. How does this verse support what you’ve discovered in this chapter of “To Love”? **(NTL:** Paul’s point here is that God will “finish the job” of our salvation because He’s already done the really difficult thing of offering His Son).
- What do you think the “all things” is, in light of what you’ve learned in this study?
3. **(Q11)** Do you think there’s any connection between having an “anemic view of sin” and the lack of growth in many Christian’s lives? Explain.
- Do you see evidence of this in your own life? Explain.
4. How do Paul’s comments in Philippians 2:12-13 and 1 Corinthians 15:10 support this “grand” view of salvation?
5. **(optional diagram; draw on whiteboard or posterboard)** Use the following questions to help you “create” this drawing:
- (Q:)** What should be true of our understanding of God’s holiness, the longer we are a Christian?
(A:) It should grow the more we see who He really is in Scripture)
- (Q:)** What should be true of our understanding of our own sinfulness, the longer we are a Christian?
(A:) It should grow the more we see who I really am in Scripture, *and* in my daily experience.)
- (Q:)** What is the thing that forms a “bridge” between God’s holiness and my own sinfulness? **(A:)** The Cross of Jesus.)
- (Q:)** What should happen then, to my understanding and appreciation of Jesus’ Cross? **(A:)** It should grow “bigger”; that is, the longer I’m a Christian the more I should understand the magnitude of what Jesus *had* to do on my behalf.)
- (Q:)** What if I don’t? **(A:)** I’ve either quit growing, *or* I never understood salvation in the first place.)