

Lesson 13 Genesis 3:8-13

Genesis for Families

Genesis 3: 8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." 11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" 12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." 13 And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The New Testament says that no man has ever seen God except Jesus Christ who has declared Him (John 1:18). God created Adam and Eve perfect and free from sin but with the ability to choose to sin if they desired. We can see several things are presented in these few words:

First, though Adam and Eve were perfect before God they did not see God and though they were in a closer communion with God than anyone since the creation, it has always been God's plan that we will not see Him face to face until His purpose to glorify Himself in the creation of all things happens at the end of this world. They walked with God, however we can see from the Scripture here it was in a different sense of this term than when we take a walk with our earthly family. God was, is, and always will be pure spirit and has not a body like we do. Like the wind then they could feel the breeze, and see the effects of the wind, so they could sense the presence of God and hear His voice though they could not see God.

Second, God left the ability to choose to obey Him or not to Adam and Eve, but God did not as some teach give to them the ability to choose eternal life. Likewise some foolishly wonder if Adam had perfectly kept the covenant if he would have had eternal life. God declared the end from the beginning and had already made a covenant with His Son in behalf of mankind before God created the world. What would have happened if Adam had perfectly obeyed God? We really do not know since this was never in the ordained will of God. We do know God is honorable and just and could conclude yes Adam would have lived forever if he had not sinned. The New Testament confirms this conclusion when Paul says sin and death entered the world by one man, Adam (Romans 5:12). To think up and wonder about such questions however will cause us to miss the beauty of the plan of salvation to the glory of God that has existed from the beginning in heaven with God and before God ever created the first thing. God created man for His glory and established a covenant relationship with Adam and was in perfect communion with them. As we noted in an earlier lesson the Tree of Life was present in the garden and they were not forbidden to eat of this tree, which represented Jesus Christ in the garden.

Third, Adam and Eve like all who have come after them attempt to cover their own sins

when only God can forgive or cover the sins against His holy will. The definition of sin is in the Bible and is real simple: 1 John 3:4 "Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." While we may involve others in our sin or cause harm to others by our sin ultimately all sin is against God alone.

Fourth, Adam then Eve pointed the finger at another as the cause of their sin. This is not true. Another may tempt us to do something against the teaching of the Bible but the choice is ours and only we will answer for our own sins. Ultimately the command was to Adam as the head of the household and he could not place the responsibility on another. Eve could point to Satan, but the choice was hers and it was she who would have to pay the price for her sin. We each stand before Christ and give answer for what we have done and never what another has or has not done.

Application

When we do something wrong we must remember the nature of man as shown to us by Adam and Eve to try and place the blame on another so as to escape the punishment for our wrong doings. The Bible teaches that when we confess our sins God is honorable and just to forgive them (1 John 1:9). Though we await the return of the Lord to see Him face to face (1 Cor. 13:12) like Adam and Eve we are constantly in the presence of God and God the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts (Rom. 5:5). Now let us also be very careful to understand this is not just a matter of saying to God I am sorry I sinned against you but it means we are really sorry and that we will not sin again like this. Some wrongly teach that it is just a matter of confessing the sin and it is instantly forgiven. This is only true if we repent and to repent means we are sorry and have turned in the opposite direction away from that sin.

Questions

- a.. What must people do for themselves that no one else can do for them when they sin against God?
- b.. What must you do besides confess your sin to God to know that God has forgiven you this sin?
- c.. Who is all sin against? How might you sin and involve another person?
- d.. What is the Bible's definition of sin and where do you find it in the Bible?

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