

The Need for Christ (cont.)

2. Fall - Problem of sin & the fallen image (Gen 2:8-9, 2:15-3:7)

a. 2 trees

- i. Tree of Life & Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil
- ii. Does Satan actually lie about the tree of knowledge? He mentions three things: eyes opened, becoming like God, knowing good & evil
 1. Confirmed in v. 3:7, 22
- iii. As to "you shall not surely die" - it depends on whether it means "in the day you eat" or "eternal life ceases" (Gen 2:17-Is day 24 hour?)
 1. Manipulation, deceit – uses a piece of truth but twists it

b. What then is at the heart of the issue with the tree of knowledge of good and evil? Why does God prohibit it?

- i. Is it obtaining knowledge we weren't allowed to have? – but this is part of being and growing in His image. Genesis 3:22 seems like a fulfillment of 1:26, not negation of it
- ii. Is it encountering evil in the fruit (something wrong with the fruit)? - common answer but also runs into big problems with Genesis 3:22.
- iii. Pastor Ryan's answer: The issue is not one of experiencing knowledge God doesn't want us to have, nor is it an issue of experiencing something evil in the fruit (i.e. the things we get from the encounter – eyes opened, knowledge, being like God - are all things we are supposed to get growing in His image). This is really an issue of a violation of God's sovereignty through an exercise of self-sovereignty. We became "like" God in a way that is reserved exclusively for God (knowledge of evil through the experience of evil). Obtaining knowledge through our own means & through an exercise of our own sovereign will (at least an attempt to be self-sovereign).
 1. An attempt to be like God in sovereignty, through independence
 2. Pursuit of knowledge is not evil, but the way it was pursued was not holy. (Jesus is the Way – holiness reflecting the Father's sovereignty. "I can only do what I see the Father doing.")
 3. "By eating the fruit you shall be as God"=determine right and wrong for yourselves
 4. Nakedness/covering leaf is recognition/awareness of the evil of unfaithfulness that is now a reality (nakedness is not the sin)
 5. Garden of Gethsemane is the New Adam (in another garden) reversing the sovereignty mistake (obedience=Thine will). Glory revealed through God sovereignty, not self sovereignty
- iv. Professor Hugenberger's answer: Satan's deceit lies in the fact that the trees already worked. God intended for us both knowledge and immortality as His children in His image. But they work thru obedience not disobedience.

1. The tree of life did not need to be partaken of for it to work. Neither did the tree of knowledge. But God will not let us access them both under the veil of self-sovereignty
2. Eternal life & knowledge of good and evil are attributes of God (thus v. 22) and thus the trees work through preservation not violation (Adam's role was to protect and keep the garden)
3. In the same day we lost one tree, we lost the other. Cannot partake of tree of life because rebellion (or self-determination outside God) cannot live eternally with God (or God ceases to be supreme & sovereign)

Summary:

- Corrupted image cannot be an eternal image!!! Our dominion was used to violate first commandment instead of care for it
- Reflection is based on relationship. We reflect what we relate to. Reflection corrupted because relationship corrupted. Relationship of submission to the sovereign distorted.
- Romans 2:14 & 1:20 - all are accountable because all had the law of God written on their hearts (no man is with excuse). Was part of imago dei
- Humankind is now tarnished - sin begets sin; passed & modeled to next generation who finds a broken self in a broken world (corrupted seed)

In Class Discussion:

- 1) What does this say about the relationship between sin and sovereignty?
- 2) What then is the adverse relationship between idolatry and faithfulness?
- 3) How would you describe the relationships between redemption and righteousness?

3. Punishments & Curse

a. Consequences of sin & Seed promises begin (Genesis 3:8-24)

- i. Seed promises begin in Gen 3:14-15 - crush head, strike heel - as a lineage to Redemption
 - Note it will involve sacrifice at some level (being stricken)
- ii. Guilt passing - Eve blames serpent, Adam blames Eve & God
 - "woman You gave me"
- iii. Shame - eyes opened to the fact that we are not God
- iv. End of Gen 3 = God clothes shame. A promise of restoration (Ancient world = clothes symbolize inheritance (dowry))
- v. BUT punishments and curse for sin –
 - Eve's represents the effects of sin (and its pain) passing on generationally. Fruitful labor will come with pain.
 - Adam's represents the task he was supposed to have (caring for the garden - now toil in the soil). Bearing fruit now comes with labor, pain.
 - ALSO, Eve who wanted to usurp God and Adam will now be frustrated in her attempts to lead.
 - AND, Adam, in his blind following (weakness for the woman implied) will have to step up and lead.

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- vi. HOWEVER, this frustration is also God's protection against their own desires to sin. Woman will find mutuality not through the dominant role but through God (Christ-neither male nor female). IN TURN, Adam's labor will cause him to search for significance (dominion), which will only be found in God and His call (not work of woman). GOD sets up obstacles to their idols.
 - In God's justice there is redemption & mercy. Not one or the other!!
- b. Beginning concepts of sacrifice = You must give up a “first” portion of the land, crop you work for
 - i. What does this teach? How is it related to punishments & curse?
 - It's an action against the notion of self-sovereignty.
 - ii. All is God's, and the first fruits are a sign that we must trust Him, not ourselves
 - iii. Leads to the concept also of dedicating your firstborn to the Lord (my heritage, seed, is yours Lord). As the curse is worked through generations, so is the promise. God in turn will “dedicate” His firstborn to us (out of love for us).

More on atonement and the sacrificial system next week.