

The Fall and Redemption of Man (Justification)

The Fall of Man and Sin

Man was created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1: 27)

The fall of man (Genesis 3)

Man became sinful – he got a sinful nature.

We sin because we are sinners NOT we are sinners because we sin.

Adam's sinful nature was passed down to his descendents.

Cain killed Abel (Genesis 4)

Mankind did not get better but continued to get worse.

“The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time” (Genesis 6: 5)

Man is in bondage to sin and cannot free himself.

“Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the Leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.” (Jeremiah 13: 23)

We inherit the sinful nature. Sin comes naturally to us. We don't have to teach anyone to sin. We have to teach them to do good.

“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.” (Psalm 51: 5)

With all our education, technology, civilization, religion and sophistication man has not got any better. All these things cannot change the sinful nature of man.

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.” (Matthew 24: 37)

We think that we are improving by we are deceived into thinking that we can better ourselves. The world is full of self improvement programs, yoga, etc.

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17: 9)

Consequences of the fall

1) Man became blind to God – blind to righteousness and unrighteousness

2 Corinthians 4: 4 John 9: 39 – 41

2) Self Centeredness

Pride

Isaiah 14: 12 – 14

Selfish Ambition

James 4: 13 – 16

Self Reliance

Proverbs 28: 26

3) The Lust of the Flesh

Galatians 5: 19 – 21

4) Worldliness

1 John 2: 16

5) Weakness

2 Corinthians 12: 9

Practise of 1 – 4 will send us to hell. Allowing weakness to cause us to practise them will also send us to hell.

Romans 3: 23

God is Holy and does not tolerate sin

“I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy.” (Leviticus 11: 44)

Our sins have separated us from God.

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” (Isaiah 59: 2)

God is merciful and desires to forgive sin

“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.” (Psalm 103: 8)

“(The Lord) forgives all your sins)

The holiness and mercy of God are met on the cross of Christ – The justice of God

“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification”

(Romans 4: 25)

“In fact the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22)

Equation

Sin = death

We are sinners therefore we must die – be put to death

God is merciful and wants to forgive us our sin but his holiness demands the shedding of blood (death) for the forgiveness of sin

Jesus shed his blood (dies) on a cross in our place – he takes the punishment for our sin – and we are free

If we believe that Jesus died in our place and has forgiven us of our sins then we have been justified and declared righteous before God.

“For is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2: 8 – 9)

Jesus came to:

1) Forgive sins

“Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.” (Acts 13: 38)

2) Save us from our sins

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1: 21)

3) Reconcile us to God

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5: 18)

4) Bring the hope of eternal life

“...a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time.” (Titus 1: 2)