



African Post 11 8-29-24

## "Our 1<sup>st</sup> Relationship with God "

Good morning!

In the last Post we outlined our 5 relationships with God:

• Created Being to Creator • Servant to Master • Friend to Friend • Child to Father • Player to Coach

This week let's talk about what it means to be a created being who is created by the God of the Bible- the Creator of all that exists.

The secular world has discarded God as creator, as the explanation for what we are and where we come from. Modern man believes we are not created in the image of God. We do not have a human spirit. We arose from the ooze through billions of years of evolution.

To believe this means we exist as natural creatures without meaning – without purpose – without eternal destiny. We simply exist until we are run over by Death on the highway of life, scraped up, and tossed into the ditch of history... soon to be forgotten.

How did we arrive at such a place? It's a long story that begins at the beginning.

The Bible tells us we are created beings designed by God to be part of the natural order. We must eat and sleep. We need clothing and shelter. We mate and produce offspring. In our current state we fight to survive. We get sick. We age. We die.

But God designed us to be much more than this! Read Genesis 1-3. God designed us to be naturally supernatural beings. He created us to live simultaneously in the natural world and the spiritual world. He created us to live in relationship with Him.

God designed us to live in Eden: without sickness, without injury, without hunger, without fear, without aging, without death.

But something went terribly wrong!

Adam and Eve embraced the lie that they could get a better deal in life by declaring independence from their Creator and living life on their own terms.

Christians call this "The Fall". They fell from their created design – they fell from their relationship with God – they fell from their high calling to administer the earth – they fell from their position of authority – they fell from their place in Paradise.

Paul puts it this way:

Romans 5: 12 *Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned....*

Romans 3: 23 *...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God....*

There you have it. As created beings we have each in our own way participated in this horrible tragedy by trying to make life work on our own terms; by trying to make life work apart from a loving, obedient relationship with our Creator.

And the results are disastrous.

Romans 6: 23 *For the wages of sin is death....*

God created us for eternity. So what happens when we die as natural creatures apart from our Creator? Death delivers the natural man into a terrible eternity separated from God and God's People – an eternity in fire.

For a dozen years I helped teach a faith-based-barracks in a maximum security prison with about forty inmates. Some were spiritual seekers. Some were new to the Faith. Some were maturing nicely in Christ Jesus.

I would ask each group, "What do you have to do to go to Hell?"

On one occasion, an inmate tentatively raised his hand and answered, "Kill somebody?" (You can guess what he was in prison for doing.) "That will certainly speed you along," I replied, "but that is not the correct answer."

"Rape somebody?" another inmate answered. (You know where he was coming from.) "Again, not the right answer, although that will certainly help."

"Manufacture and sell lots of drugs?" "I'm sure that will help you get there but still not the right answer." The men stared at me waiting for the correct answer.

I said, "The answer is 'Nothing'. Absolutely nothing. Wake up each morning. Live life any way you want. Eventually die and go to Hell."

Everything in nature has a default setting: the sun rises and sets – the herds of animals on the Serengeti migrate back and forth – the tides on the coast come in and go out. As human creatures living apart from our Creator, our default setting is to be born – live – die – spend eternity in Hell.

But that is NOT what our Creator designed for us. That is not what our Creator desires for us. That is not our only option.

In our next Post we will talk about how we can begin the long journey back to our original design. How we can recover lost relationship with our Creator. How we can discover life -- True Life.

God bless you-

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