

Lesson 5

Man

The Fall of Man

The first man ever to live was Adam and the first woman was Eve. They lived in the Garden in Eden. God had provided for all of the needs of Adam and Eve. They were given great freedom in the Garden. However, God put Adam to the test in one area: "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, **thou shalt not eat of it**: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17). The only restriction placed upon Adam was that he must not eat of "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

God was testing Adam to see if he would obey. Adam failed the test: "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and **he did eat**" (Genesis 3:6). Thus, Adam disobeyed God and ate of the forbidden fruit.

The Consequences

When Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, they became sinners. This is when sin entered the world. "Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] **sin entered into the world**, and death by sin; and so **death** passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). The entrance of sin into the world also brought death. God had warned Adam "thou shalt surely **die**" if he disobeyed the command.

Adam now had a sin nature and soon had "a son in his own likeness, after **his image**" (Genesis 5:3). Due to Adam's sin, every person is born with a sin nature. ("For as by one man's [Adam's] disobedience many were **made sinners** . . .") Many people say that man is basically good and that we only need to create an environment in which man's goodness will be expressed. However, this is not true since all are born with a corrupt nature and are "alienated from the life of God" (Ephesians 4:18).

Man's Condition

All men are now sinners before God. "As it is written, There is **none righteous**, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). Whether rich or poor, famous or unknown, *all* are sinners in God's eyes. "For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). The whole world is now "**guilty** before God" (Romans 3:19). Some religions teach that there are one or more holy men or women who live a much better life than all other people. This is not true from God's perspective. God says, "They are **all** gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is **none that doeth good**, no, not one" (Romans 3:12).

It is common to hear religious and political leaders talk about how all men (regardless of race, nationality, religion, etc.) are children of God. However, notice the following words that Jesus Christ spoke to some religious leaders of His day: "Ye are of **your father the devil**, and the lusts of your father ye will do" (John 8:44). In a later study we will see what the Bible teaches about how we can become children of God. However, it is important to understand that no one is *born* a child of God and being *religious* does not make one a child of God. Jesus Christ said that the religious leaders of His day were children of the devil.

The Bible not only says that the religious leaders to whom Christ spoke were children of the devil, but also teaches that Satan is "the god of this world" (II Corinthians 4:4). Clearly most of the people in the world are following the devil, not the one true God. Man's understanding is darkened and his heart is wicked. Even when speaking to His own disciples, Christ said, "If ye then, being **evil**." Men may act religious and quite moral, but according to God's Word all are sinners. Romans 7:18 declares "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth **no good thing**" and thus it is impossible for a man in his natural condition to please God.

It is important to remember that man has a twofold problem. First is the fact that every person *commits sins* against God. Second is the truth that all men are born with a *sin nature*. Thus, even if a man is able to control himself from committing sins through religion or moral teaching, he still has a sin nature. Therefore, in God's sight he still is evil and guilty.

Review Questions

True or False

1. Adam was a sinner when God created him.
2. Adam became a sinner when he ate of the forbidden fruit.
3. In God's sight, all men are sinners.
4. Satan is the god of this world.

Multiple Choice

5. God tested Adam:
 - a. to see if he would obey God
 - b. to test his intelligence
 - c. to challenge Satan

d. to make Adam suffer

6. Adam's children, grandchildren, etc.:

- a. were more obedient than Adam
- b. were born in the image of Adam
- c. had the same test as Adam
- d. were not affected by Adam's sin

7. Many people, mistakenly, think that:

- a. God created Adam and Eve
- b. All men are sinners
- c. All men are children of God
- d. Man has a sin nature

Fill in the Blanks

8. "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou _____ eat of it"

9. "Wherefore, as by one man ___ entered into the world, and ___ by sin"

10. "As it is written, There is ___ righteous, no, not one"

For Further Study

1. Is it possible for man in his natural state to be religious? to be kind? to be outwardly moral? to please God? (see Matthew 7:21-23, II Corinthians 11:14-15)

2. What are most men motivated by in their actions? love for God? love for others? self-love? (see II Timothy 3:1-5)

3. What was one result of sin according to Genesis 3:12-13?

4. What curses did God pronounce when Adam and Eve ate of the fruit? (see Genesis 3:14-19)

5. What is one result of Adam's sin that is clearly seen by all? (see Genesis 3:19 and Romans 5:12)

6. Explain Isaiah 64:6.

7. What does Romans 8:7-8 tell us about man in his natural condition?
8. Do the Old and New Testaments both teach the same thing about man's natural condition? (see Psalm 14:1-3 and Romans 3:10-12)
9. What do we learn about mankind in I Kings 8:46 and Proverbs 20:9?
10. What do we learn about humanity in Ecclesiastes 7:20?

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