

STUDIES IN GENESIS #18

Written by Calvin Fox

Monday, 01 June 2015 09:21 - Last Updated Monday, 01 June 2015 09:31

Review: Humanity (male and female), created by God in His Image, has a Cultural Mandate from God: Men and Women, working together as equal partners, are to use their Rational powers, Creative abilities, Moral character, need for community and their Spiritual nature

1. To multiply and fill the earth spread out around the globe as God's stewards
2. To subdue and rule, the earth, cultivating its natural resources for the benefit of all

All this was meant to be normal and this Plan has never expired. BUT something happened to greatly impede and undermine it. That "something" is the fact that Adam and Eve broke the Covenant, the relationship, they enjoyed with God. They rebelled against the Creator and sought to live autonomous lives on their own terms. This led to dire consequences.

Adam's sin was willful disobedience. Romans 5:19

He sinned by breaking a command

Rom

5:14

More than that, Adam... transgressed the covenant; [he] dealt faithlessly with [God].

See

Hosea 6:7

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" [God knew- man needed to know] 10 he answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked;

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[in spite of leaves] so I hid." 11 and He said, "who told you that you were naked? [how do you know that?] Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" [This would be the only explanation] 12 The man said, "The woman You put here with me-she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13 the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

God had warned them if they disobeyed Him they would die (2:17) That is exactly what happened.

In the Bible, Death means separation. From Genesis 3, we deduce that there are five degrees of Death: Death involves separation/alienation on 5 levels: spiritual, psychological, social, environmental and physical –

- from God-- v.8-9 fear, guilt, hiding

- within ourselves-- v.7 cf v.5 -embarrassment, loss of innocence, shame –cf 2:25

- from each other- v.12 blame, denial (yet they both are involved)

- from the rest of creation-- v.13,15 illustrated by enmity of the serpent

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- from our earthly bodies-- (this physical separation comes years later for our first Parents-5:5)

Adam's sin has consequence for all human beings:

Romans 5:12 sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned

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death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, 15 the many died by the trespass of the one man

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From the moment they are born, all human beings are facing death: all die (1 Cor 15:22) in five ways.

All people are born alienated from God, from themselves, from others, from creation and finally from their bodies. How can this be? Because in Adam all die (likewise, in Christ all live. Reformed Theologians say this text and Romans 5 teach “federalism”- When Adam acted, we all did. He is the federal head of all human beings, just as Christ is the New Adam and the federal head of all we are redeemed.

We still bear the image of God as human beings, we are still “persons” with God-given attributes, but we are imperfect and flawed and that makes it difficult or even impossible to fulfill the Cultural Mandate.

Accordingly, the first and greatest needs we have as human beings are forgiveness and reconciliation with God, with ourselves, with others and with creation. Indeed, that is what being saved means. (2 Cor 5:12) and the Gospel is the Good news that such reconciliation, such salvation, is possible in Christ (Rom 5:10) In Him, we can be all God intends for us to be and do

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