

Session # 5

The Destruction of Spirituality -- The Fall of Man and Sin

Introduction

- A. It is staggering to our imagination to realize that we have been created in the image of God. We have been created to have fellowship with God, with the ability and office to represent Him, created with the capacity to have dominion over the universe and cause it to glorify Him.
- B. As we consider the world, the human race, and ourselves from the perspective of creation -- we cry out, "What has happened to us?" We are creatures of sickness and death, selfishness and sensuality, hatred and violence, covetousness and rebellion, weakness and pride -- and yet all the while conscious of a lost greatness and sensing deep loneliness and abandonment.
- C. The answer to our cry is found in the Bible. We have sinned against our Creator. We have chosen to live without Him. And, by our actions we have deprived ourselves of fellowship with God, deprived ourselves of every good, and enslaved ourselves to Satan and to all forms of evil.

I. The Fall of Man has Produced a Tragic Alienation.

- A. We have alienated ourselves from God.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. Eph. 2:1-3 NIV

- 1. Alienation from God has produced many hurtful consequence. A few are:

- a. Guilt with its condemnation. John 3:8; Rom. 3:23; 6:23
- b. Depravity with its inability. Rom. 3:10-18; Eph. 4:18,19
- c. Enmity with its rebellion. Is. 1:2-6; 63:10; Rom. 8:7
- d. Meaninglessness with its idolatry. Eph. 5:3-6; Col. 3:5,6; I Peter 4:3
- e. Ignorance with its obsession. Rom. 1:21-32; Eph. 4:18,19
- f. Separation with its unfulfillment. Jer. 2:13; Is. 57:20,21; Eph. 4:18
- g. Sinfulness with its death. Rom. 6:23; Heb. 9:27
- h. Error with its enslavement. John 8:34; Rom. 6:16,20

- 2. In regard to our relationship with God, the Fall has brought us to a place of helpless and hopelessness. We cannot retrace our steps to God except for the grace of God. Eph. 2:12

- B. We have alienated ourselves from one another.

For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. Titus 3:3

Comment: Instead of being characterized by love and trust toward one another, we are intuitively suspicious, jealous, envious, and hateful.

C. We have alienated ourselves from ourselves.

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. Who, being past feeling, have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. Eph. 4:18,19

Comment: Instead of loving and accepting ourselves as God intended, we now vacillate between making ourselves an idol through self-love or an enemy through hatred. We work against our own best interest.

II. The Fall of Man has Produced a Destructive Distortion.

- A. Sin has led us to believe that God is not good nor in control. Ps. 50:21; Rm 2:4  
Question: How do we think of God when something really goes wrong?
- B. Sin has led us to neglect/devalue the spiritual. Jn 3:12; 6:26; Eph 6:12  
Question: Do we interpret our life/trials from the vertical?
- C. Sin has led us to transfer all authority to ourselves. Gen 3:1-6; Rom. 3:10-18  
Question: When severely tempted do we make ourselves an exception to commands?
- D. Sin has led us to misinterpret the meaning of life. Luke 12:13-21; James 4:13-17  
Question: Does God's glory control us -- or is it money, pleasure, and ease?
- E. Sin has led us to misunderstand who we are. Luke 12:23; Phil 2:21; 3:19  
Question: Do we treat ourselves as spiritual or only body?
- F. Sin has led us to seek fulfillment in earthly things. Jer. 2:13; I Tim 6:3-10  
Question: What would we want if we could have it without spiritual loss?

III. The Fall of Man has Produced a Enslaving Predisposition to Error and Evil.

- A. Sin has made us vulnerable to error and its practice in sinfulness. Rom 1:21-32  
Question: What is easier -- to doubt or practice truth?
- B. Sin has made us vulnerable to evil and its deceitful pleasure. Rm 1:32; Eph 4:22  
Question: Have you ever tried over and over to find fulfillment in some sin?
- C. Sin has made us vulnerable to the demonic. Gen 3:1-6; John 8:44  
Question: Why do we almost deny the demonic when Eph 6:12 is in the Bible?
- D. Sin has made us vulnerable to accepting the standards of fallen culture. Eph 2:1-3  
Question: Do you find it easy to violate the cultural standard in clothing?
- E. Sin has made us vulnerable to self-centeredness. Mark 8:34; Rom 1:24  
Question: If this is not a basic problem in life -- what is?
- F. Sin has made us vulnerable to be controlled by our functions. Jer 17:9; Matt 8:26  
Question: What happens when your body, emotions, or mind demands satisfaction?
- G. Sin has made us vulnerable to external pressure. II Tim 4:10; I Jn 2:15,16  
Question: Are we a gyroscope type of person or a radar type?

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