

The Biblical Concept of Sin (2)

Introduction

- A. Biblically considered, sin is a shortcoming (James 4:17) and also a transgression (I John 3:4). Man, therefore, is seen as unrighteous in that he has not fulfilled the demands of the law of God (Rom. 3:10) and also guilty in that he has disobeyed God's law (Rom. 3:23).
- B. "Christians generally understand that the Ten Commandments and the law of love (Cf. Exodus 20:1-17 and Luke 10:27) constitute a brief summary of God's holy moral law for man. And this is all based on God's holy character. Sin may then be defined ultimately as anything in the creature which does not express or which is contrary to the holy character of the Creator."
(J. O. Busvell, A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion, Vol. I, p. 264)

I. The Immediate Consequences of the Fall of Man.

A. Personal shame and guilt, Genesis 3:7.

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

Observation: The experience of guilt and shame was immediately followed by the endeavor to "cover up". We all share this same experience and response.

B. Loss of divine fellowship and hiding from God, Genesis 3:8-10.

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard Thy voice in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked and I hid myself.

Observation: The warning, ". . . thou shalt surely die", is seen here in a very practical manner. In fear man still attempts the ridiculous: hiding from God.

C. Misinterpreting the truth to avoid responsibility, Genesis 3:12,13.

And the man said, The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me and I did eat.

Observation: "It is my fault", "I was wrong", "I am to be blamed" are words that rarely escape our lips. Sin causes us to blame someone or something when we are guilty. This is a serious hindrance to any form of success.

D. The sentence of physical death, Genesis 3:19.

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground, for out of it wast thou taken, for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Observation: Man is helpless before the inexorable toll of time. He matures, grows old and dies. This process of death points to the truth of the Bible.

II. The Consequences of the Fall In Regard to the Relationship of God and Man.

A. Mankind, due to sin, is alienated from God, Eph. 2:12; Col. 1:21.

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled.

Observation: An alien is one separated from the rights and privileges of the citizenry. The term is used in the Bible to teach us the profound effects of sin – we are separated from God and His grace!

B. Man is also, due to sin, an alien to other men and to himself, Titus 3:3.

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

Observation: Instead of love and trust among men there is an intuitive discord, suspicion and hatred. Even our attitude toward ourselves vascillates between the sinful pride of self-love and personal hatred.

III. The Consequences of the Fall in Regard to the Resultant Character of Man.

A. Sin has brought the obsession of lust, John 8:34; I John 2:16.

Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Observation: Being alienated from God man lives without genuine fulfillment. We are now characterized by an unceasing search for satisfaction.

B. Sin has brought deception and enslavement to the Devil, II Timothy 2:25,26.

In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves, if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth, and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Observation: When we turned away from God we also lost the truth (and everything good) and turned toward the enemy to obey his suggestions. As a result man is ignorant, deceived and enslaved.

C. Sin has brought guilt and spiritual defilement, James 2:10; Mark 7:21-23.

For whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet offend in CUM point, he is guilty of all.

All these evil things come from within and defile the man.

Observation: It is an inexorable rule – we cannot escape the guilt of our sin **nor** the spiritual defilement which it brings into our lives.

Conclusion: Let us confess our sins, find forgiveness and cleansing, I John 1:9