



It Shouldn't Be This Way!

Addictions. Abuse. Theft. Natural Catastrophes. Injustice. Sickness. Death. These are but a few signs cause us pause and consider, "Something is wrong with our world!" So what is it and what's the answer?

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teachingnotes

* All Scripture is from LEB (Lexham English Bible) unless otherwise noted.

Christians and non-Christians alike have moments when they sense and say, "It shouldn't be this way!" **Why IS it this way?** The Scriptures answer this with 1 Word = **SIN**.

Made in God's Image

Genesis 1:27-28 (LEB) ²⁷ So **God created humankind in his image**, in the likeness of God he created him, male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of heaven, and over every animal that moves upon the earth."

"The image of God" separates people from all other animals. Creative, relational, emotional, moral, reasoning, loving, rulers over the earth, and destined to live eternally with their Creator, humans would make decisions with their intellect rather than instinct (like other animals). Further, God gave humans free will - able to obey...and disobey.

Imagine what life would had been like without sin present! No injuries, no cemeteries, no damaged relationships, truthful, & pure. God had given His image bearers incredible freedom and lots of options to choose from, including the food they ate. There was only one prohibition - they were not to eat from 1 of the many trees.

God's Command

Genesis 2:16-17 (LEB) ¹⁶ And Yahweh God commanded the man, saying, "From every tree of the garden you may freely eat, ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day **that you eat from it you shall surely die.**"

Some Things Wrong...It Shouldn't Be This Way!

Genesis 3:8-10 ⁸ Then they heard the sound of Yahweh God walking in the garden at the windy time of day. And the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Yahweh God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ And Yahweh God called to the man and said to him, "**Where are you?**" ¹⁰ And he replied, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and **I was afraid** because I *am* naked, **so I hid myself.**"

The privilege of talking with the Creator without the consequences of sin...was gone. "**Where are you?**" was not a geographical question; it was a spiritual question. God wanted them to know where they were. Instead of celebrating God's Presence, they were now **afraid** of Him. **Can't the same be said of many of us? Many no longer want to be in His Presence.** Many hide and attempt to cover guilt, seeking out others who applaud sin rather than call them out of it.

MY NOTES

God had warned of His judgment, and now it would be carried out, pain in childbirth, strained relationships between spouses (Gen. 3:16), work became difficult, and...

The Worst Warning Becomes Reality

Genesis 3:19 ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, until your return to the ground. For from it you were taken; **for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**"

Broken Relationships. Struggle. Death. **It shouldn't be this way**...but now it is. Children would be born, now with a sin nature. **Humans would now distort the image of the One they were made to represent.** But rather than leave them in shame, look what God does.

Genesis 3:21 ²¹ And Yahweh God made for Adam and for his wife **garments of skin, and he clothed them.**

Think about the significance of that - ANOTHER had to die in order to cover their shame.

The Impact of Sin on Children

Genesis 4:5-7 ⁵ but to Cain and to his offering he did not look with favor. And Cain became very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ And Yahweh said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why is your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well will I not accept you? But if you do not do well, **sin is crouching at the door. And its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.**"

God warns Cain to turn from his sinful thoughts. He could have, but - like his parents - he refuses to yield to God's warning.

Genesis 4:8-9 Then Cain said to his brother Abel, "*Let us go out into the field.*" And when they were in the field, **Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.** ⁹ Then Yahweh said to Cain, "Where *is* Abel your brother?" And he said, "**I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?**"

The first murder. **It shouldn't be this way**...but now it is. When God asks Cain about his brother, he LIES to God, and God brings judgment on Cain. Reading through Genesis, the same scene is played out over and over again.

People created in the image of God...disobeying Him, hiding from Him, lying to Him, and hurting others.

Drunkenness. Broken Relationships. Sexual Immorality. Theft. Injustice. Sickness...Death. **It shouldn't be this way**...but now it is.

God's Judgment On All Mankind

Genesis 6:5-8 ⁵ And Yahweh saw that **the evil of humankind was great upon the earth, and every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was always only evil.** ⁶ And Yahweh regretted that he had made humankind on the earth, and he was grieved in his heart. ⁷ And Yahweh said, "**I will destroy humankind** whom I created from upon the face of the earth, from humankind, to animals, to creeping things, and to the birds of heaven, for I regret that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of Yahweh.

Noah and his family kick off creation again, ruling over the animals. But again, mankind begins to run from God and His commands. God is patient, willing to forgive, but eventually brings judgment, *sometimes through natural catastrophes* (Sodom & Gomorrah - brimstone & fire, Egypt & Israel - locusts) *sometimes through war* (Assyrians against Israel & Babylonians against Judah). **It shouldn't be this way**...but now it is.

Judgment had to come. **Sin had, like a virus, spread to the entire world.**

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

And then God brings His harshest punishment of all. The sinless One - Jesus - comes to earth and is tempted, not in a plush garden like Adam & Eve, but in a rocky, barren land where He has no food for 40 days. But rather than giving in to the tempter's ploy, Jesus stands strong. Jesus quotes the Scriptures. Jesus will NOT bow His knee to the desires of the enemy. And after living in purity, healing hundreds, and developing disciples to carry His message to the world, the Sinless One goes to the cross to pay for OUR SINS.

We might say "**It shouldn't be this way**"...But, THANK GOD it is!

Romans 5:17-19 CSB ¹⁷ Since by the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, how **much more will those who receive the overflow of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.** ¹⁸ So then, as through one trespass there is condemnation for everyone, so also through one righteous act there is justification leading to life for everyone. ¹⁹ For just as through one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so also **through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.**

The Gospel message is limited to **everyone** who repents and trusts Jesus (this is not universal salvation for every person whether they follow Jesus or not - read the rest of Romans and the Gospels).

Just a chapter later, Paul writes these words:

The Gift of Eternal Life

Romans 6:23 CSB For the wages of sin is death, but **the gift of God is eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Eternal life is a **GIFT** - it can't be earned. Those who trust Jesus are forgiven, covered by the payment of Jesus. Remember God covering Adam and Eve with the skin of another? Did Paul have this in mind when he writes THIS?

Galatians 3:27 CSB For those of you who were baptized into Christ **have been clothed with Christ**.

Those who have turned from sin and trusted Jesus have their guilt and shame covered, not by an animal, but by the Sinless One!

1 of 2 things will happen by the end of our lives: 1) Jesus will return or 2) we will die and go to Him! Until Jesus returns first, you will **CLOSE** our eyes on this side and **OPEN** them to the other side of eternity, **some to ETERNAL LIFE and others to ETERNAL DEATH. Bad news first:**

Justice will be served on those who disobey their Creator

Revelation 20:15 CSB And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was **thrown into the lake of fire**.

Revelation 21:8 CSB But the cowards, faithless, detestable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars—their share will be in the **lake that burns with fire and sulfur**, which is the second death.”

Until that day, we will continue to say ***It shouldn't be this way***...as we yearn for all things to be made right. Then there's the good news - we can trust the promise of what is to come!

The Promise of What is to Come!

Revelation 21:3-4 ³ Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, **God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them**. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. **Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more**, because the previous things have passed away.

What do we do until that day?

2 Corinthians 5:15 CSB ¹⁵ And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but **for the one who died for them and was raised**.

Is that true of YOUR life? We would LOVE to talk more with you about that!

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Freddy & Joyce Howard (973-0047), Jere & Darlene Burnette (673-1888) , Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282) , Jim & Derita Pinkard (229-834-4307), or Boss & Amelia Mulkey (673-1387).



1. **Start day in PRAYER. Thank God for His goodness to you!** (Family, health, provision, Jesus)
2. **Read & Share the Scriptures.** 1 Chapter a day verse by verse, chapter by chapter. Find a reading plan or ask another mature Christian where to read. Share what you are learning or questions you have with your family or a same-sex friend.
3. **Check on some friends.** and really ask how they are. How can you pray for them? How can you serve them? Share what God is teaching you.