

## **Foundations - The Fall & The Good News**

Intro: The bible teaches us two primary things. The nature of God, his love, his plan for us and creation, his plan of redemption; also the nature of men, our sinful heart and actions, and our need for redemption

In the very beginning of our history man had a relationship with God. (Genesis 1-2) It was the sin of man that separated us from God and brought death to the world.

(Genesis 3, Romans 5:12) Today we examine this and see God's plan to restore us and all things to good

### **1. The Fall**

In our last bible study we got to see the intense, abounding love of God and his incredible nature. When we look at the scriptures right there in the beginning we see our loving God creating all that we see and can experience and his frequent refrain "it is good" and us his crowning achievement, "very good"

It doesn't take long for us to screw it up. Sin enters right away as our ancestors disobey God and fail to live in a manner pleasing, they moved outside His will and decided to live out their will contrary to God. The story is told Genesis 1-3 and then we see in chapter 4 sin continue to effect us as the first murder happens in history. There is a lot that can be said and taught in these early chapters but I want to show the effect of sin.

### **Genesis 6:5-6**

What do we learn in this passage about God? How does our sin affect him?

- God saw the wickedness of man
- God sees our sin and the damages it causes us and others.
- Sin damages our relationship with God and each other.
- We learned in God's Love Lesson about the love of God and our command to love like him. Anything less than love is sin.
- God regretted creating us - God was caused pain because of our sin. It not only separates us from him but also brings his wrath.

### **Isaiah 59:1-2**

How does our sin effect us and our relationship with God?

- Our sins separate us from God - Like a wall built brick by brick so too our “wall of sin” is constructed by each of our sins. (Draw visual example)
- What does it mean that God’s hand is not too short to save?
- Nobody is too far off from God. He can save anyone no matter how sinful
- What are iniquities? Another word for Sin
- Our sins have hidden God’s face from us, so we must find out what sins are building that wall

How important do you think it is that we get rid of our sin?

### **Romans 3:23**

- All have sinned - All people are sinful. We do get a gift of mercy through Jesus, but right now we need to understand what this mercy is given for.
- Example: (Draw visual example)
- Person A hasn’t been too sinful, so they have a smaller amount of sin
- Person B has been a bit more sinful, so their amount is a bit bigger
- Person C has been a sinful wretch, so their amount is the largest
- Which person is farthest from God? They are all equally distant from God we all fall short.

### **Romans 6:23**

- The wages of our sin is death - so we must hate it and cut it out of our life at all costs.
- What we get for our sin is death, separation from God, without redemption only left to incur God’s wrath, but even in the horror of the truth as to the result and wage of sin, we also see hope and the love of God being held out for us. That is the good news. And we will go there in a minute, but first I want us to get a better understanding of what sin is and what it looks like in our lives.

### **What is sin?**

### **Galatians 5:19-21 - Sins we commit - Commission**

- The acts of the sinful nature are obvious - When we live according to our sinful natures it shows clearly in our lives and our behaviors.

- Those who live like this will not inherit eternal life - We will not go to heaven if we live this way.
- Key questions to ask during the study: (You should also be open and share your answers, spend time here really talking)
- How has your sin hurt your own life?
- How has your sin hurt others?
- How has your sin hurt God?
- How has other peoples sin hurt you?

### **James 4:17 - Sins of omission**

- If anyone knows the good they ought to do - Our conscience does a good job of letting us know when we are not doing what we should, trouble is we often ignore it.
- And does not do it - Sinning is not just acting out in bad ways but also when we fail to do the good we should do.
- Can you think of ways you may have sinned this way?

## **2. The Good News (Gospel)**

**Read these passages: Luke 19:10; John 3:14-17; Mark 10:45; Matthew 16:27**

This is the Good News, God's plan for our redemption was revealed in our savior Jesus.

### **Acts 2:22-24; 36**

The Good News - Jesus is our Messiah (savior) and Lord - He lived for us, died for us, came out the grave and so will we! This is good news.

## **3. Responding to the Good News - Acts 2:37-39**

What do we see the people do in response? What does it mean to be cut to the heart? Do you notice that they seem to trust the apostles, "what shall we do?" How were they able to do this? The word of God is the authority. They trusted the word that was preached. Do you trust the word of God?

What is your response? Are you ready to repent and get baptized?

We need you to have faith in what these two things are. Next Study is repentance and baptism.