

# The Fall

## Introduction

- The Fall can be a very difficult truth to deal with. Why? Because the fall of man condemns all men to physical death. It makes it so that all men are born enslaved to sin and worthy of eternal damnation in hell. If they were to make a film of it, It probably wouldn't be acclaimed "the feel good movie of the year"
- I begs the question, "WHY?" Was God not powerful enough to prevent this? If He is (which He certainly is) why didn't He? What great virtue was worth the cost of every human being experiencing death and billions, trillions, if not countless humans experiencing eternal hell?
- I have heard many explanations for "why" and frankly most of them simply don't seem sufficient.
- Today, we will answer that Question from the Word. In doing so we will discuss the **Facts of the Fall**, the **Implications of the Fall**, and then of course close with the **Reason for the Fall**.

## The Facts

### 1. God's Creation

- **Adam was created without sin**
  - Genesis 1:31--*And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day*
  - Genesis 2:25--*And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed*
  - Romans 5:12--*Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—*
- **Adam had a free will**
  - What we **DON'T** mean:
    - **Autonomy**--independent or outside of God's omniscience or sovereignty. God is not a hands-off God.
      - Proverbs 16:9--*The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps*
      - Proverbs 16:33--*The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.*
      - Isaiah 46:8-11--*I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.*
      - Jeremiah 23:23-24--*"Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.*
      - Psalm 139:1-4--*O LORD, you have searched me and known me! [2] You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. [3] You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. [4] Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.*

# The Fall

- What we **DO** mean:
  - **Self Determining--NOT** to be confused with autonomy. Self-Determining simply means that he did what he wanted to do. He was in no way coerced or forced by God (or Satan for that matter) to sin. We also have a free will in this sense. We can choose between Caff and De-Caff. Cocoa Puff and Fruit Loops. Flip-Flops or Shoes. We can choose things within our ability of choosing, i.e.. we cannot choose to leap over a building in a single bound because we are not able.
    - Genesis 6:6--*So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*
    - Luke 6:45--*The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks*
  - **Not enslaved by sin**--Because Adam was not originally, as you and I are, a slave to sin, his will was not bound or restricted in its ability by sin. Thus, he was able to live righteously before God and did so until he ate the fruit of the tree.
    - John 8:34--*34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin*

## 2. God's Covenant

- **Covenant of Works**--don't sin, live forever
  - Genesis 2:16-17--*And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die*
- **Covenant of Grace**--redemption by grace through faith
  - Ephesians--2:8--*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God*
  - Hebrews 11

## The Implications

1. **Imputation**--"When Adam first sinned, that sin (and its blame) was rightly regarded by God to be our sin as well.<sup>1</sup>"
  - Romans 5:12-14--*12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— 13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come*
  - Why are we guilty for Adam's sin? *Representative*

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<sup>1</sup> Matt Perman, "What is the Biblical Evidence for the Imputation of Adam's Sin?" <http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/articles/what-is-the-biblical-evidence-for-the-imputation-of-adams-sin>

# The Fall

- Romans 5 teaches us that **Adam was our representative**. His decision to sin had implications for the whole world.
- Romans 5 teaches us that **Jesus is our representative**. His obedience to death on the cross and His resurrection has implications for all who would by grace would believe in Him.

## 2. Total Depravity--Morally corrupt, innately sinful due to original sin

- **Extent**--Total Depravity. This depravity is radical and pervasive. It extends to his mind, will and affections.
- **Mind & Body**--our minds are morally corrupted by the Fall
  - Ephesians 2:1-3--*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the **passions of our flesh**, carrying out the **desires of the body** and the **mind**, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*
  - Romans 8:5-8--*For those who live according to the flesh set their **minds on the things of the flesh**, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 **For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God***
- **Affections/Emotions**--our emotions are morally corrupted by the Fall
  - Genesis 6:5--*The Lord saw that the **wickedness of man** was great in the earth, and that **every intention of the thoughts of his heart** was only evil continually.*
- **Will**--our will is both corrupted and limited by the Fall
  - Ephesians 2:1-3--*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the **passions of our flesh**, carrying out the **desires of the body** and the **mind**, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*
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  - John 6:44--*No one **can** come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day*
  - Important to understand that depravity does not destroy the will. Depraved people still will and desire things and are indeed free to choose all that they desire. However, depravity does remove from people the ability and desire to live righteously before a Holy God.
- **What IS NOT meant**--We are not **utterly** depraved. We are not all trying to do as much evil as we possibly can all the time. In fact, fallen man still bearing the very image of God often purposes to do good things. However, his attempts to do good are corrupted and made less than completely good or purely good because no part of him is free from corruption or depravity.

# The Fall

- Romans 2:14-15--*14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them*

## 3. Death & Wrath--physical and spiritual death

- Genesis 2:16-17-- *And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die***
- Romans 5:12-14--*12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, **and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned**— 13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come*
- Ephesians 2:1-3--***And you were dead in the trespasses and sins** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, **and were by nature children of wrath**, like the rest of mankind*
- John 3:36--*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the **wrath of God remains on him***
- The word *remains* signifies that the wrath of God is already a present reality. This again reveals that we are in fact born sinners not just that we become sinners by sinning.

## The Reason

- Many would espouse that there is no divine purpose at all in the fall of man. That God was somehow blind sided by this catastrophe and has had to think quickly to come up with a “plan B” to try to fix everything. This however is not the God we see in scripture we see a God who is completely sovereign and has a purpose in all things even things.
  - Genesis 50:20--*20 As for you, you meant evil against me, **but God meant it for good**, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today*
  - Isaiah 45:7--*I form light and create darkness, I make well- being and create calamity, I am the Lord, who does all these things*
  - Isaiah 46:8-11--*I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.*
  - Proverbs 16:4--*The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble*
  - Acts 2:23-- *this Jesus, delivered up according to the **definite plan and foreknowledge of God**, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men*
- **God Chooses to Glorify Himself as the Glorious Lord of Love, Mercy, & Redemption**
  - Ephesians 1:4-6--*even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace*

# The Fall

- Ephesians 1:11-12--*In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory*
- **God Chooses to Glorify Himself as the Pure, Righteous, & Holy Judge**
  - Revelation 19--*After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants." Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever*
    - Here's what the masses around the throne are doing;
      - (1) Glorifying God as the Savior
      - (2) Glorifying God as the Righteous Judge
    - In fact, most of the Biblical accounts of heavenly worship are for one of these reasons and much of earthly human worship focuses on god as the righteous judge or as deliverer/savior/ redeemer.
    - **Why We Aren't Really Yet Comfortable With Glorifying God as Righteous Judge**
      - (1) We are all guilty of sin and so to rejoice in the destruction of all sinners means us.
      - (2) We do not fully understand the Holiness of god
      - (3) The burden God gives us while in this life is to see sinners saved by His grace. It is not ever right to rejoice in the judgement of God until all His saints are gathered and all that remain are those who would suppress the truth in unrighteousness
    - **Why We One Day Will Be**
      - Just in case you're thinking, "not me, I never will be!" Let me inform you that, if you are a Christian, your voice was one of the voices John heard
        - (1) Experiencing the Holiness of God--Important to remember that when Isaiah experienced the holiness of God (Isaiah 6) he was so affected by it that He issue a proclamation of judgement upon himself. Thus, we can assert that the Holiness of God is so overwhelmingly glorious, majestic, and beautiful that those who dwell in the holiness of God cannot even tolerate that which is unholy coming before His presence and you will praise His holy name for His just judgement.
        - (2) You will be fully glorified and will no longer feel ashamed in His holy presence
        - (3) You will have full assurance that all the saints are gathered home

## Closing

- That we would have a heightened awareness to the reality that, even we in Christ, still live in a fallen physical flesh, still have fallen human emotions, still wrestle to renew a fallen human mind and thus are still in desperate need of the Holy Spirit's application of the work of Christ.
- Through understanding the fall, we would approach living in the fallen world rightly.
- That we would understand and experience God's incredible majesty and glory in salvation and in judgment even through something as devastating as the fall of man.