

Adam: The morality of man

We live in a morally defunct world where everyone has set their own standards of morality. Good is called bad and bad good. There is a quest of finding what is right over what is wrong. However we need to remember that morality in itself can become a god replacing God from whom all true morality originates. It is the quest of man to be moral but he is unable to be so whilst separated from God who generates true morality within us.

Genesis 2: 7 – 8; 15 – 25

1) Filled with the breath of God (7 – 8)

- Man was made from dust and was an empty shell before God breathed His life into him.
- The life of man is directly related to the life of God.
- Man and God were closely connected although separate.
- Man isn't an extension of God but draws His life from the life of God.
- In order to do so we need to walk closely to God in relationship with Him.
 - He isn't dependent on us but we were created to be dependent on Him.
- It was this closeness, this dependence on God that was lost when Adam sinned.
- Sin separated man from God
 - Isaiah 59: 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.
- Jesus came to reconcile us to God and heal that broken relationship
 - 2 Corinthians 5: 17 – 19 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.
- Jesus then reiterates our dependence on Him as a people reconciled to God
 - John 15: 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.
- Having been dead in our trespasses and sins we now return to having life in Jesus.
 - 1 John 5: 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

2) A moral choice (15 – 17)

- Adam was given a moral obligation to care for all that God had given him and then he was given a moral choice to make.
- God placed man in the garden to work it and care for it.
- Work isn't a result of the fall and sinfulness. God gave man a moral obligation to work and care for what He had given
- We shouldn't have the idea that once we have been saved from sin that we can relax and let God just provide everything without us needing to do anything thereafter.
- As we can see work is something that God gave us prior to the fall of man.
- Besides the obligation to work God gave Adam a moral choice by placing the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden then forbidding Adam to eat of it.
- Adam was given the right to eat of any tree in the garden except one.
- God wasn't being unfair or unreasonable. What He permitted Adam to have far outweighed what He forbade him to have.
- In the relative world that we live in where everyone decides what's right and wrong and rejects all forms of rules regarding them as infringing on their freedom.

- God wasn't merely laying down a rule He was also stating the natural consequences of disobeying the rule – death.
 - Romans 6: 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- God's heart is that we choose life.
 - Deuteronomy 30: 19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.
- After Adam sinned man's free will was limited that He could not choose life and that he was now dependent on God intervening to give him life again.
 - John 15: 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit —fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

3) Moral relationships

- God was to give Adam a helper.
- Before we think of Eve being a helper as a servant to assist Adam the majority of the times that the Hebrew words for helper is used in the Psalms and is referring to the Lord being our helper.
- In that case a helper could even be someone stronger than the person and it's a recognition that we can't get through life on our own and need someone to come alongside us for us to get through life together.
- In this instance God provided Adam with Eve having created her from his own rib.
- God had provided the first moral relationship that ever existed – marriage
- With the introduction of sin the institution of marriage has disintegrated and so society has disintegrated along with it.
- Marriage and the family is the bedrock of society and if that relationship fails then so does society.
- We can see this in our present day societies where divorce is rampant, fathers are absent, homes are run by single mothers, and the list goes on.
- This has a negative effect on the whole of society leading to lawlessness in general.
- One of the outworkings of salvation is the restoration of moral relationships starting with our relationship with God and the between people.
- The marriage relationship is also being restored.
 - Jesus spoke against divorce
 - Matthew 19: 8 Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.
 - Paul gave good outlines for a godly marriage (Ephesians 5: 21 – 33)