

“Freedom from the Fallen Life”
January 18, 2015

CORE: Sin has decimated us. Put us in “darkness”—in “less than” living (Rom. 3:23). Devastating us personally. Twisting family systems & cultural values.

BUT JESUS has come to “save to the uttermost those who draw near to God” (Heb. 7:25 ESV). *“Sozo”- restoring spiritual, physical & mental/emotional health.*

- Restoring all Adam lost, and...
- ...all Adam never began to enjoy (interrupted).
- Jesus showed us what “normal life” is.

1. WE WERE MADE—BECAUSE OF LOVE

Ephesians 1:3-4 NIV & TPT

- God wasn’t “lonely”—complete in Himself (“Let us make...”)
- Freely **CHOSE** to make us—to **LOVE** us!
- **HIS LOVE**—the “**FUEL**” we were made to live by!

2. WE WERE MADE TO “LIVE LOVED” BY HIM

- “**Fallen Love**”- must be **EARNED** (*i.e., Love songs—“I love you because...”*)
- “**Father’s Love**”- must be **RECEIVED**
 - “Love gift”- (Eph. 1:3 TPT)—no strings!
 - Not “token charity from an anonymous donor”!
 - He delights in **YOU**—calls you **BY NAME**—affectionate names (*i.e., “Apple of My eye”; “My Beloved”; “Chosen Ones”*)!
- Our worth/identity come from His voice speaking into us!
 - It matters that you woke up today!
 - You **bring** significance—you don’t earn it!
 - You see others as significant (*C.S. Lewis- “No mere mortals”*)
 - Made in “image of God” (to “image” Him!)
 - Loved unconditionally
 - Therefore, it matters how I treat you!

NOTE: This is how we were created to live. 1st couple—“lord & lady” living in His presence—fueled by His love—filled with identity and purpose.

What went wrong?

3. THEY LISTENED TO “ANOTHER VOICE” & BELIEVED “THE LIE”

Romans 1:25-“They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.”

THE LIE- “*You can find significance & meaning WITHIN YOURSELF! Declare your independence from God. You can do this alone! You can earn His love. But...here’s the catch—you must be “perfect”!*”

From that moment—began to live a “FALLEN LIFE” (a “less than” life):

a. LOST

- Lost “belonging” & “direction” (*lost capacity to hear His voice*)
- Became “darkness”—“*living in the shadows*”—no longer experiencing the substance of life in Him!
- Afraid, inadequate, lonely—just said “goodbye” to the meaning of their life!

b. NAKED & ASHAMED—“*under scrutiny*”

- A failure; disappointment
- “Caught”—unable to change
- “Unlovable”—(*“If people knew what I was really like...”*)
- “I must hide...blame someone else for my shame.”

c. CAME TO THE “CONCLUSION OF CONDEMNATION”:

- “*God doesn’t love me now!*”
- They formed an image of God—based on how they saw themselves!
- Romans 1:25 MSG- “They worshiped the god they made—instead of the God who made them!”

d. THEY TURNED FROM CREATOR TO CREATURE

- Seeking love from fellow creatures”
 - “*Will you tell me who I am? Be my refuge? Be my strength? Be my unconditional lover?*”
 - Trouble is—their love is not unconditional or limitless.
 - Looking to people to give what only God can give!

CLOSING THOUGHT

- Jesus is “saving to the uttermost”—restoring all things!
- H.S. “sheds abroad” His love—“surpasses knowledge”!