

**“Freedom from the Fallen Life part 2”
February 1, 2015**

**Genesis 3:1-13
Romans 1:21 & 25**

CORE: We were made to DISCOVER who we are from an OUTSIDE VOICE—the voice of our Creator. When we LOST the capacity to LIVE IN HIS LOVE and HEAR HIS VOICE—we looked to the voices of OTHER CREATURES to give us VALUE, MEANING, PURPOSE.

1. WE BELIEVED “THE LIE” AS ABSOLUTE TRUTH

- That we don’t need God to discover WHO we are & WHY we exist
- That we can discover our IDENTITY within ourselves & from other people
- We become “DRIVEN” to make this lie work: “*as (in place of) God*”

CREATED STATE: “In His image” + loved unconditionally = who I am

FALLEN STATE: What I DO + my SUCCESS + WHAT you think of me = who I am

NOTE: BEFORE the Fall—“Ish & Ishah”—royalty—lord and lady of the Garden

NOTE: AFTER the Fall—“Eve” (“*mother of my kids*”)—I.D. based on what she DOES/PRODUCES

- We rate one another—based on what they “DO”
- Painfully try to fill the VOID in knowing who I am—with performance & people’s approval
- Yet, only God’s love is the answer to all our cravings—what we’ve been longing for all along!

2. TWO WAYS TO MANAGE THE “SHAME” OF SEPARATION FROM GOD

a. Adam’s way: SHIFT THE BLAME (“*The woman---You made!*”)

- Rise above shame by pointing to another who is “INFERIOR”
- Find IDENTITY in PERFORMANCE
- PERFECTIONIST—everything must be “just right”!
- Constant CONFLICTS, focused on FLAWS of others. [Unable to extend mercy—because they’ve never fully received it- Matt. 18]
- Rather be “RIGHT” than RECONCILED
- Unable to SHOW WEAKNESS (*admit wrong; show emotion; admit you’ve learned something; admit you need help*)
- Likes RULES—makes them feel “superior” (“*Thank you...not publican*”)
- Thinks they are IN CONTROL—yet controlled by what others think!

b. Eve's way: TAKE THE BLAME/RECEIVE THE SHAME

- **Constantly APOLOGIZE—never CONFRONT**
- **FEAR REJECTION & ABANDONMENT** (*"Please, like me!"*)
- **SELF-DOUBT...even SELF-HATRED** (*"If people knew what I'm really like..."*)
- **NO FIRM ROOT** (*"I'll be whatever people want me to be"*)
- **DRIVEN (not to succeed, but...) to AVOID FAILURE**
- **Terrified of DISAPPOINTING people**
- **"I find my IDENTITY in your APPROVAL!"**
- **Only feel LOVED for what they DO**
- **DO NOT FEEL LIKE THEY "MATTER"** (*"Don't change your plans for me"; Restaurant? "It doesn't matter. Anything. Order for me."; Afraid to make the wrong choice*)

NOTE: When you know who you are because GOD HAS SPOKEN IT INTO YOU—you FULLY LIVE—moving from the FALLEN LIFE to ABUNDANT LIFE!

3. UNTIL THAT HAPPENS—the "ADAM/EVE" CYCLE continues.

- **Frequently, "Adam's" & "Eve's" get together—in the "dance of shame"**
 - **"Adam"-**
 - **Needs to be "needed"**
 - **Needs imperfect people to prove he's "perfect"**
 - **Raises up "dependent" people (NOT Col. 1:28)**
 - **"Eve"- plays the part**
 - **Feels responsible for everyone else's "happiness"** (*If others are "unhappy"—"What did I do wrong?"*)
 - **"Approval Addiction"—can't say "No"**
 - **Tiptoe around the anger, disapproval of others**
 - **Over-responsible for everything** (*"If I don't do it, who will?"*)

NOTE: These roles are not gender-exclusive. Either role played by men or women.

4. GOOD NEWS! We can "REPENT"—we can CHANGE!

Repentance is more than seeking forgiveness for a specific sin. It is the "total transition into a completely NEW SYSTEM."

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves." (Colossians 1:13)

Here are some of the CHANGES:

1. (For “Adam” it means SAYING “NO” TO CONTROL)

- Saying “No” to striving & hiding & comparing & competing
- Saying “No” to controlling others—to feel better about yourself
- Saying “Yes” to His great love for you—letting His love LIVE LARGE in your heart
 - Because He loves us—He makes us face the consequences of our choices
 - He doesn’t dance around our ego or our anger, trying to make us “happy” (*i.e., rich young ruler*)
 - His love calls us to act responsibly—He doesn’t lie or cover for us

2. (For BOTH “Adam” & “Eve”) it means AN END TO PERFORMANCE

- When we experience His unconditional love in Jesus—our performance is killed. What Paul meant when he said, “I died” & “I counted (all of my accomplishments) as worthless”!
- *“I turn from THE LIE that I can earn God’s love by my performance!”*
 - Don’t have to _____ (*Go to mission field, be a pastor, take over your dad’s business, etc.*) to cause God to love you more!
 - You can say “No” to the things everyone expects you to do for them. (*“Pleasers” often feel lonely, unappreciated, and “used.” Best thing to do—if Jesus didn’t call you—don’t do it! Let things fail—maybe then those who should be will start!*)
 - Move from “trying harder” to “trusting Him—receiving His love for you.”

CLOSING THOUGHT

We desperately need the H.S. to “fall upon us” (*an uninhibited embrace*) & “shed abroad” (*permeate us*) with the Father’s love!

When you receive His approval—you don’t try to “earn” a cheap imitation of approval anywhere else!