

Man's Depravity and God's Grace

Genesis 3:8-13

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Introduction

When we get to **Genesis 3**, we see how far man and woman have fallen from the purity and holiness of God. They no longer enjoy His presence. They now fear Him. They are not afraid of Him because He is good, but because He is the Judge. They fear His judgment. All the wonderful relationship they had with God is now shattered.

What happened in **Genesis 3** is a historical fact. God explains to us why we live in the world of misery and sin. Everything that happens today can be traced back to the Fall. It was such a one hundred eighty degree change that it subjected the entire creation under bondage (**Romans 8:20-21**). We can no longer attain that paradise here on earth because everything we do is tainted by sin, and sin kills. **Genesis 3:8-13** reveals to us the total depravity of man, but it also reveals to us God's grace.

Before we begin, we need to define total depravity. Total depravity does not mean that man is utterly depraved, in that human beings are as wicked as they could be and are on the brink of savagery. The idea of total depravity is that sin affects the whole person, the entirety of his being. Every aspect of that person is tainted by sin. Total depravity also means that sinners are both unwilling and unable to repent. Even though man might feel shame, guilt, and confronted by God about his condition, he will do anything and everything to deceive, evade, and blame others except himself.

Adam and Eve have now become totally depraved, and Moses gives to us a very graphic picture of total depravity. It wasn't that they did not know they sinned, it was that they knew they sinned, and they tried to do their best to hide from God.

Genesis 3:8-13

8 *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*

- Cool of day
 - This was the evening
 - This was a regular occurrence
 - The Lord met with them during the evening
- Sound of the Lord
 - God is a Spirit
 - But He has shown Himself in human form
 - We know this is Jesus Christ in pre-Incarnate form

Isaiah 6:1 *in the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple.*

John 12:41 *Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about Him.*

- Hiding from the Lord
 - However when man heard God walking, they hid behind the trees
 - This is what sinners do—hide from God

- Why?
 - Because they were afraid (as Adam says in verse 10)
 - They are afraid of God's judgment
 - They were afraid because God said that they will die if they ate the fruit
- Hiding from God is what people do all the time
 - Through philosophies
 - Through entertainment
 - By denying God
- It is foolish to hide from God—it is impossible

Psalms 139:7-8 *Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there.*

Revelation 6:15-16 *Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"*

9 *But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." 11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"*

- Where are you?
 - God knew perfectly well where Adam and Eve were
 - He was not asking for their location
 - He was asking about their soul
 - He was asking these questions to humble them
 - He called them
 - He was summoning them to give an account for their actions
 - Like a warrant for an arrest
 - He was asking Adam to confess, an opening to repentance
 - Adam and Eve respond!
 - They could only come forward because of the sovereign will of God
 - There is no escaping His judgment
- I was afraid
 - Adam doesn't answer God truthfully or openly
 - He does not repent
 - He likes his sin
 - He loves being in darkness
 - He was afraid because he was naked?
 - He has fig leave clothes on!
 - He was not telling God his condition
 - He has not told God what he had done—ate the fruit
 - He is lying and evading God
 - There is no confession or repentance from Adam or Eve
 - This is total depravity
- God's gracious questions
 - Who told you were naked?
 - Were there people who told you that you were naked?
 - There was nobody that told them
 - That shame came within

- This was an opportunity for Adam to confess
 - Adam should have acknowledged that his shame came within, from disobedience
- Did you eat from the tree that I've forbidden?
 - Since Adam would not confess
 - God does it for him!
 - He tells Adam what he needs to say

12 The man said, "The woman You put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." **13** Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- Man's blame
 - Adam admits to eating it
 - Because that is obvious
 - It is not confession
 - Adam refuses to acknowledge what God said
 - He instead blames God and woman for his sins
 - He was in effect telling God—You have sinned!
 - He never takes responsibility for his own actions
 - Sinners always do that
 - They convince that there is nothing wrong with themselves
 - But there is something wrong with everyone else
 - Adam takes what God has done good and wonderful for him
 - And blames God for His perfect gift
 - He also blames his wife for causing him to sin
 - He refuses to accept responsibility for his own actions
 - Remember Adam was never tempted!
 - He willfully disobeyed God
- Woman's blame
 - She was blaming God for creating the serpent
 - She was blaming the serpent for deceiving her
 - She was not accepting responsibility for her actions
 - This is always the actions of a depraved mind

Coram Deo

Sinners are devoid of any love for God. They hate God (**Romans 1:30**). They have no desire to turn from sin. Their hearts are so set into sin that they refuse to come before God and acknowledge their guilt. They trust only in their own self-righteousness. There is no desire to repent. People are dead to God.

Jeremiah 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?*

What is the remedy? The only way anyone can be saved is God's grace shattering the bonds of depravity. Only God can awaken the dead to life.

Ephesians 2:4-5 *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*