

Lesson #1

Relationship Problems – Sources & Solutions

The Fall – Universal Developmental Corruption

In the beginning, God created man & woman (Mankind). Mankind was created perfect, acceptable to God, with a Godly nature, capable of enjoying perfect intimacy with God/others and in a perfect environment. This is the status & situation in which man was designed to develop and live. When man sinned, all of these blessings were lost, causing man to be condemned by God's Justice, corrupting man's nature, breaking intimacy with God / others and resulted in their being expelled into a harsh environment. *Man was not designed to develop and live without God, have a corrupt nature nor be at the mercy of a harsh environment.* The fall has resulted in man being born with a nature to sin and having developed corrupted thinking, causing all mankind to develop wrong thinking about life and relationships – total depravity.

1. Man's Creation: Divine Design Gen 1:27

Perfect before God – no condemnation; Intimate with God – designed to be happy/fulfilled only in intimacy with God - **There is no happiness for the human soul w/out intimacy with God;**

Godly nature – designed to seek / please God; Perfect environment – Eden – work w/out struggle
Creatures made in the image/likeness of God not designed to live with sin - wrong thinking

2. Man's Fall – Loss of all creative blessings Gen 3

Loss of perfection – condemned by God – sp. Death; Loss of intimate relationship – enmity Corrupted nature – independent – seek fulfillment apart from God; Loss of perfect environment

Summary: The fall has caused man to be born and develop without God, with a corrupted nature/mechanism in a harsh environment. **Man was not designed to live w/out God, live as a sinner or in a harsh, unforgiving environment.** The fall caused extreme negative psychological effects on man's mental and emotional development. **Every human** except Christ has built a twisted-perverted belief system that hinders our ability to relate to others in a healthy manner.

Universal Problems and Solutions

Spiritual Death – separation from God

Sin Nature – self centered desires

Spoiled belief - false behavior system

Spiritual Life – Born spiritually alive to God

Holy Spirit – God centered desires

Transformation – renewal by word of God

Developmental Corruption because of the Fall - Universal

1. **Misdirected Focus and Priorities – egocentric cp theocentric**

Mankind is totally “me centered” and focused on self – universal effect

Issue of the A/C is Lucifer's decision to exalt himself above God – egocentric

Phil 2:5 – selfish ambition – greedy to benefit ourselves through relating to others

2Cor 10:5 – goal of CWL is to bring every thought into captivity to Christ – Theocentric

Solution: Spiritual maturity and health is directly related to God centeredness

2. **Misdirected faith – anthropopistic; kosmopistic cp theopistic**

1Cor 2:4-5 – Paul: that our faith might not rest on the wisdom of men but on the power/God

Jer 17:5,9 – Cursed is man who trusts in man; blessed is man who trusts in God

- Fall caused man to be born spiritually dead – no access to God to trust

1Cor 2:14 – man w/out GHS is unable to understand the things GHS teaches – *ouk dunamai*

Man's foundational beliefs system are attached to man – only option we have

When man trusts man for life solutions, he expects that happiness will come from man

Faith à expectations à man à relational strategies designed to win love from man

- Conditional love – I love you - now love me back – Mt 5:46 – even publicans do this

Faith in man always leads to unrealistic expectations = inevitable disappointment

To believe that +H lies in any person except God is a stacked deck for a scarred soul - defensive

3. Misdirected love needs – anthropagapic cp theogapic

John 12:42 Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

Man born w/out God can only look to man for love – immediate/available object

Faith in man à love needs directed to man: parents and peers – mate, children

Beliefs, expectations & relational strategies designed win love from man = -H

Legitimate human temporal love needs must be subordinate to love relationship with God

- **Misdirected desire – anthropothumistic cp theothumistic**

1Jn 2:16 – world driven by lust/flesh, lust/eyes & pride of life – *epithumia* – strong desire

- Lust/desire/need (*epithumia*) is the driving force within the heart of man

Eph 5:22 – desire deceives and drives old man thinking 2Pt 1:4 – world corrupted because of lust

1Pt 2:2 – desire is a choice – *epipotheo* AAImp – command to redirect desire

Lust is normal need and desire corrupted by sin – selfishness + faith in details of life

Desire can be +R (Jesus Lk 22:15) or –R (frustrated desire Jam 4:2)

Jam 4 – committed, misdirected desire leads to frustrated rage – relational problems

- **Misdirected Fear – anthropophobic cp theophobic**

Hebrews 2:15 and deliver those who through fear/death were subject to slavery all their lives

Man is afraid of death – mass denial of the reality of death and judgment

Lk 12:7 – man is afraid that he will not have enough provision – survival à wealth

Jn 19:38 – fear of man’s disapproval – Joseph of Arimathea – secretly to Pilate

Faith in man = dependence on man = fear of rejection by man – peer pressure

- **Man lives under the harsh environment of the curses**

Gen 3:16-19 – Curse of the womb and curse on the earth

Curse of womb – focus on children and desire/headship of husband – conflict

Curse on earth – harsh environment – toil, sweat, hardship

Man was designed to live in perfect environment – garden ----- heaven

4. Man is me-centered and misdirected in every aspect of believing,

Expecting, loving, desiring and reverencing. At the core and to the core man’s thinking is corrupted. The bible discusses our core thinking as analogous to the roots of a plant.

Root – Heb *sheresh*; Greek *rizo* – root of a plant; issue at the heart of a matter; source of behavior

Deut 29:18 idolater in Israel - produces bitter poisonous fruit

Rom 11:16 holy root produces holy branches à holy fruit

Mk 4:17 parable-sower – no root in themselves – rejected biblical root – kept worldly roots

1Tim 6:10 love of money – root of all kinds of evil – desiring money à many griefs

- Belief that money brings +H à desire for money à commitment to pursue money à abandon spiritual life as +H à empty, defeated life (Heb 12:15) fail the grace of God– root of bitterness – defiles many
- Divine discipline and suffering à unrealistic ideas about CWL à reject grace in it à angry and bitter about God’s training in your life.
- Relationships: belief that relationship with man = +H à unrealistic expectations of the person and the relationship à manipulation (fight-withdraw) à bitterness à quit.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life – Christians can live a new kind of life.

1Pt 2:9 We have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light so that we might walk in the light and live a new kind of light. The old man belief system was built in the darkness and is the remnant of the darkness left in us. God has given us a way to take off this residue of darkness and live free from it. Freedom to choose our beliefs, to believe like Jesus, to live like Jesus, to love like Jesus and live to honor God.

The residue of darkness, the old man belief system