

The Fall of Man – Divorce from God

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The Creation

- God created man in his own image
- God exists as a spirit and man likewise was created as a spirit
- “Male and Female created he them”
- Therefore, Man, prior to Eve’s existence had both male and female characteristics

The Creation – Cont'd

- Man was created “a little lower than the angels” with the intent to demonstrate to all God’s creations, the proper relationship between God and his creatures
- Adam enjoyed close fellowship with God in which the voice of God could be heard in the Garden “in the cool of the day”

Eve

- Eve was “taken out of the man”
- Eve, brought forth out of Adam, was also brought as a spiritual being
- Adam and Eve were collectively “one flesh” as Eve was taken out of Adam
- Adam and Eve collectively constituted a single man
- Eve, upon her creation, was styled “a help meet” unto Adam

Equity and Honor

- Adam and Eve were equal in that each reflected part of God's nature
- Adam – the strength and power character God
- Eve – the caring and nurturing character
- Each had a differential honor, however
- Man was charged with dominion over the earth
- Eve's role was to help Adam in the exercise of dominion

Fall of Man

- Eve was deceived by a thought relayed to her by “a ministering spirit” intent on seducing her
- Eve brought her thought to Adam
- Adam could have rejected Eve’s thought and served as a covering for her wrong deed

Fall of Man Cont'd

- Adam willfully agreed with the thought brought to him by Eve thereby defying God's law
- Adam's action constituted willful sin which required God's judgment
- When confronted by God, Adam, instead of owning up to his wrong, blamed "the woman whom thou gavest me"

God's Judgment

- Adam's sin caused dominion over the earth to be handed to Satan
- Satan became known as the "God of this world"
- "Know ye not that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are" Romans 6:16

God's Mercy – Coats of Skin

- God, knowing that man was no match for Satan, created the physical world that we now know as a buffer between man and Satan
- This is evidenced by God clothing Adam and Eve with “coats of skin” representing a physical existence in the earth
- Satan's kingdom, although natural does not extend to the physical world
- A physical body is necessary for legitimacy in the world in which we live

After the fall

- For Eve's disobedience unto God, God said, your husband "shall rule over thee"
- What God was referring to was the natural result of Eve's sin and not a reflection of God's perfect will with respect to male and female relationships
- In God's perfect will both Man and woman, Adam and Eve were both created equal although they had differential honor
- However, as in times past, when God speaks man only listen to the letter of his message and the not spirit

After the Fall – The Letter versus the Spirit of Law

- Many societies have misinterpreted the biblical passage that states “and he [Adam] shall rule over thee [Eve]” to mean that God intended women to be subjugated
- In so doing, these societies place strict reliance on the letter of the previous passage and completely miss what God’s intent (Spirit of the Law).
- God was making a pronouncement that because of Eve’s sin in presenting the forbidden fruit to her husband that women would be subjugated to men.
- God’s will was that the two be equal and joined together as one flesh as it was in the beginning.

After the Fall – Subjugation of Women

- The subjugation of women has existed in virtual every society on the face of the earth in differing degrees.
- For example: The Taliban who were the ruling class in Afghanistan instituted a religious system where women were relegated to second class citizenship.
- Under the Taliban regime, women were not allowed to attend school, attend public events alone, or speak in a public forum.

Plan for Reconciliation

- God is seeking to reestablish the marriage between God and man
- Christ reestablished the marriage and turned over his reigning power to the church
- The church, however, has not sustained the marriage which has resulted in a divorce from God
- The pain of the divorce from God is presently being experienced in churches all over the world