

Sin

Understanding our condition

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

1B

Connect with each other

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you remember from our study last week?
2. Is freedom of choice essential for love to exist in relationships? Why or why not?

Introduction

In this study, we will look at what the Bible says about free choice and love and how they affect relationships. In particular we will look at man's relationship with God.

Hear God's Word and understand it

Bible Passage: Genesis 2: 15-17

Background: After God created the first man, God placed him in the garden of Eden where everything was perfect, including the man's relationship with God. Eden means "delight".

Bible Discussion Questions:

1. What was God's purpose for the man in this place of delight? Was he free to do whatever he liked?

2. How was the man to stay in right relationship with God?
3. What choice did God give the man? What would be the result of his choice?

Bible Passage: Genesis 3: 1-13

Background: In this passage, a "serpent" deceives mankind into disobeying God. In another book in the Bible called Revelation, the "serpent" is described as "that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray."

Bible Discussion Questions:

1. Why did they eat the fruit? (v4-6)
2. What consequences came from eating the fruit? (v7-13)

Adam and Eve, the man and the woman, became alienated from God when they freely chose to distrust and disobey him. They had eaten of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil so now they knew evil. Before, it was outside themselves, but now it had become part of their own nature. They had died spiritually (separated from God) and were helpless to reverse it.

"For the wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23.

This also eventually led to physical death which was not part of God's original purpose for man.

We will now see what effect this event has on the whole of mankind.

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Bible Passage: Romans 5: 12

Background: This verse comes from a passage in the New Testament that looks back at this crucial event in history.

Bible Discussion Questions:

1. What was the effect of Adam's sin?

People are not sinners because they do wrong, but they do wrong because they are sinners by nature. The Bible calls this condition, sin. Sins are the wrong things we choose to do because of this condition.

Bible Passage: Romans 3: 23

Bible Discussion Questions:

1. To fall short of the glory of God means to fail to live in the glory of God's perfection that we were created for. The verse says that this includes everyone. What do you think of this concept?

As we will see in the following passage, God wants to rescue people from their sinful condition.

Bible Passage: Acts 17: 22-31

Background: Paul was a brilliant Jewish scholar who persecuted Jesus' followers, until Jesus personally appeared to him. He is talking to Greeks who have no background in Christianity. They have an altar to an unknown God and he is explaining who that God is.

Bible Discussion Question:

1. What is God's desire for man? (v26-28)
2. What does God now command all people to do? (v30)

3. Why do we need to respond to God's command? (v24-25, 31)

God has an answer!

He has made a way where people's sin can be removed; and so they can know him and will want to follow him. We will explore this in the following studies.

Apply God's Word

Summarise

How would you summarise what you have learned today:

1. About God?
2. About yourself and all other people?

3. What left the deepest impression on you from our study today?