

XI. Of the Fall of Man

I believe that Adam, being created without iniquity and with full faculties, was responsible for his decisions in the Garden of Eden. Specifically, Adam was responsible for following the instruction of the LORD God with respect to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. While Adam had no specific understanding of the knowledge of good and evil, he knew and understood sufficient to determine the proper course of action when faced with the temptation Satan placed before him.

Instead, Adam willfully chose to lean on his own understanding and perception, directing his actions accordingly. While Adam's disobedience of the instruction is sufficient to condemn him, the gaining of the knowledge of good and evil resulted in Adam choosing actions contrary to the environment in which he lived. This act of iniquity instantly separated him from the LORD God, killing him spiritually and setting in motion his physical death. As a result, Adam also gained the attribute of being unequal in his ways. Thus, iniquity became intrinsic to Adam and was passed to all his offspring, even to the present day.

Thus, all men, being the descendants of Adam, are born with iniquity intrinsic to their being. This iniquity affects all aspects of man's being, ultimately deceiving each individual with regard to their ability to be righteous of their own efforts. Operating under this deception, all men transgress by choice upon understanding the law. Therefore, all men are sinners by our own choosing; and under just condemnation without excuse.

References

Genesis 2:16-17; Genesis 3:1-6, Genesis 3:22-24; Romans 5:19;

Romans 5:12-14; Psalm 14:1-3; Psalm 53:1-3; Romans 3:10-19; Romans 1:18-19; Romans 1:20-21, Romans 1:28-32; Ephesians 2:1-3; Galatians 3:21-22; Ezekiel 18:19-20

Scriptures:

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. (*Genesis 2:16-17*)

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. (*Genesis 3:1-6*)

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. (*Genesis 3:22-24*)

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. (*Romans 5:19*)

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. *(Romans 5:12-14)*)

The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God*. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is none that doeth good*. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, *and seek God*. They are all gone aside, they are *all together* become filthy: *there is none that doeth good, no, not one*. (*Psalm 14:1-3*)

The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God*. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: *there is none that doeth good*. God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were *any* that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; *there is none that doeth good, no, not one*. (*Psalm 53:1-3*)

As it is written, *There is none righteous, no, not one*: *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God*. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; *there is none that doeth good, no, not one*. Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: *Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness*: Their feet *are* swift to shed blood: *Destruction and misery are in their ways*: And the way of peace have they not known: *There is no fear of God before their eyes*. Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. (*Romans 3:10-19*)

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. (*Romans 1:18-19*)

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (*Romans 1:20-21*)

And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. (*Romans 1:28-32*)

And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (*Ephesians 2:1-3*)

Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life,

verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. (*Galatians 3:21-22*)

Yet say ye, Why? doth not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son hath done that which is lawful and right, *and* hath kept all my statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live. The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him. (*Ezekiel 18:19-20*)