

LESSON 3 Man and Sin

Imagine a friend has given you a palace full of beautiful things to enjoy. The only request he makes is, “Please don’t jump from the tower because you will die.”

Then an enemy comes to your palace. He says, “Who told you not to jump? Go ahead. You’ll feel wonderful! You will know how it feels to fly. You will be able to see your palace from a different view. Don’t worry about what happens when you hit bottom; just think about all the new things you’ll learn on the way down.”

Would you run to the top of your tower and jump? Of course not. It would be stupid to trust your enemy and do as he says.

Adam and Eve had a similar experience. God put them in a beautiful garden and made them masters over everything. He gave them permission to eat of every tree but one. Along came the enemy, Satan, who told them to eat the fruit of the tree anyway—that it would not hurt them. They trusted his word instead of God’s. How foolish!

Man was made perfect but through disobedience sin entered his life. How would we define sin? Did Adam bring it into the world? What is the punishment for sin? Is there any escape? This lesson will give us the answers.

The Plan

- A. Man at Creation
- B. Humanity Now
- C. The Definition of Sin
- D. Origin of Sin
- E. The Solution for Sin

The Goals

1. State how and why God created humans.
2. Describe the condition of humans as a result of the Fall.
3. Describe the nature and consequences of sin.
4. Explain how a sinner can escape the penalty of sin.

A. MAN AT CREATION

Goal 1. State how and why God created humans.

God created a beautiful world with trees, flowers, and animals. The Bible says that God was pleased with what He saw. But it was not complete. There were no people to enjoy and share that beauty.

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him. (Genesis 1:26–27)

Man was different from the animals already created because he was made in God’s likeness. He was a glorious creation, perfect in body, soul, and spirit. God formed man out of the soil

of the ground. Then He breathed life-giving breath into man's nostrils and the man began to live.

With life came responsibility. Man could make his own decisions. He could glorify God in his everyday living. The Bible says that in the cool of the evening God would walk and talk with the first humans—Adam and Eve—in the garden where they lived. God loved them and wanted their perfect fellowship to continue forever. But He knew it could not be perfect if it were forced, if they had no choice but to fellowship with Him.

Because God has the freedom to choose and He made humans like himself, He gave them the freedom to decide whether that fellowship should continue as it had or be broken. Perhaps Adam and Eve wanted to keep it that way, but they wanted some other things too. One day they would decide.

Application

- 1** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
 - a)** Man was made for God's glory.
 - b)** God created man out of nothing.
 - c)** God's breath made man a living soul.
 - d)** Man was created perfect in body, soul, and spirit.
 - e)** Humans were created with a freedom to choose.
- 2** Memorize Revelation 4:11.
- 3** Choose the correct completion for the following statement.
Man was made to be
 - a)** oppressed and overworked.
 - b)** forced into service to God.
 - c)** a glory to God.



B. HUMANITY NOW

Goal 2. Describe the condition of humans as a result of the Fall

What a joy the heart of God must have felt having communion with His creation. Then Adam and Eve chose to break that precious fellowship with God.

Thus, man fell from his perfect state. He made the wrong choice and became sinful. Romans 5:19 says “through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners.”

The justice of God could not ignore sin. God cannot lie and go against His word. He had said that disobedience would cause man to become mortal. Adam and Eve had to leave that paradise garden of Eden and be separated from the presence of God.

Humanity’s condition today is still sinful. Romans 3:23 says, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Though people have never lost the ability to choose, wrong choices still keep them away from God.

Application

4 Zephaniah 3:17 says that when you are in communion with the Lord He

- a)** feels it is the least that you can do.
- b)** sings and is joyful over you.
- c)** knows you will soon disobey Him again.
- d)** will give you new life.

5 When Job 8:3 asks, “Does God pervert justice? Does the Almighty pervert what is right?” he suggests that God is true to His character and

- a)** man lost the ability to choose right or wrong.
- b)** will carry out His word by punishing sin.
- c)** Adam and Eve had to leave the garden of Eden.
- d)** decided Adam and Eve had not really understood His instructions.

- 6** Humanity's condition now is one of
- a)** separation from God.
 - b)** purity and perfection.
 - c)** no responsibility for his sins.
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C. THE DEFINITION OF SIN

Sin is disobeying God's laws. It is rebellion. The limits God has set for us were made for our highest good. For instance, God knows that bitterness and hate hurt us and other people too. So He set certain limits, or laws, as protection. For us to go outside these limits is to sin. First John 3:4 says, "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness."

Is it all right then to do anything that does not hurt me or others? No, everything is lawful **ONLY** if it is inside the limits that God has set. We might think that something does not hurt us or others and be mistaken in our belief. For example, some parents thought they should not obey God's law of correcting their children because that would frustrate the children. Now experts insist that disciplining children is critical. So people's opinions change. Thus, the only safe conduct for us is obedience to God's laws, whether we understand the reason for them or not.

Application

- 7** Sin is
- a)** whatever you feel is wrong.
 - b)** whatever others tell you is wrong.
 - c)** being discovered doing something wrong.
 - d)** rebellion and disobedience to God's laws.
- 8** God set limits to people's conduct because He
- a)** wanted to frustrate Adam and Eve.
 - b)** does not want us to enjoy ourselves or be free.
 - c)** loves us and wants the best for us.

- 9 To step outside the limits God has set is
- a) all right if no one gets hurt.
 - b) permissible as long as we are not discovered.
 - c) sometimes necessary to get us out of trouble.
 - d) never to be done.
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D. ORIGIN OF SIN

Goal 3. Describe the nature and consequences of sin.

Satan tempted man to sin, and man yielded to that temptation. First John 3:8 says, “He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning.” It was Satan who tempted man to sin, but this does not free man from the blame. Man is responsible too.

Adam did not have to yield to temptation from Satan. We know that temptations do not come from God. James 1:13 tells us, “When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.”

It is not sin to be tempted. Even Jesus was tempted by the devil. But it is sin to yield to temptation. How different the world would be if Adam had not yielded.

What happened to man when he sinned? God said that if he disobeyed he would die. While Adam did not die immediately as we know death, he immediately became mortal. Death began to work in his body, soul, and spirit. The apostle Paul writes,

Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.
(Romans 5:12)

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

The penalty for sin today is the same penalty that was given to Adam and Eve—death. Romans 6:23 notes that the wages of sin is death. No, the sinner does not physically die the moment he or she commits sin. Sometimes it even looks as though sinners prosper. But death is working there nevertheless, and eventually they will not only die physically but spiritually also. Spiritual death means eternal separation from God.

Application

Choose the answers that complete each sentence.

10 Sin entered the world

- a) through Satan who sinned from the beginning.
- b) because Adam yielded to Satan's temptation.
- c) when Adam deliberately disobeyed God.

11 Since sin entered the world

- a) Satan no longer has to tempt anyone.
 - b) everyone is a sinner and can be tempted.
 - c) there is both physical and spiritual death.
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E. THE SOLUTION FOR SIN

Goal 4. Explain how a sinner can escape the penalty of sin.

God has given us a way to escape the punishment of sin which is spiritual death and everlasting separation from Him. The way is through accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior. In a future lesson we will learn the verses that tell us how to be saved. For now, it would be good to memorize two verses that show us how to escape the punishment of sin.

God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
(Romans 5:8)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Application

12 Write a short completion for the following statement. A sinner can escape the penalty of sin only by



Check Your Answers

- 1 a) Man was made for God's glory.
c) God's breath made man a living soul.
d) Man was created perfect in body, soul, and spirit.
e) Man was created with a freedom to choose.
- 4 b) sings and is joyful over you.
d) will give you new life.
- 5 b) will carry out His word by punishing sin.
c) Adam and Eve had to leave the garden of Eden.
- 3 c) a glory to God.
- 6 a) separation from God.
- 7 d) rebellion and disobedience to God's laws.
- 11 b) everyone is a sinner and can be tempted.
c) there is both physical and spiritual death.
- 8 c) loves us and wants the best for us.
- 9 d) never to be done.
- 12 accepting Jesus Christ as Savior.
- 10 a) through Satan who sinned from the beginning.
b) because Adam yielded to Satan's temptation.
c) when Adam deliberately disobeyed God.

