

GOD's Solution To Life's Problems

Lesson 3 – What is God's View of Mankind?

INTRODUCTION

We as people are prone to compare ourselves with others as the standard of whether we are good or bad. But it is important for us to ask how God views mankind. In this lesson, we will look to God's Word to learn what He says about us.

I. MANKIND'S HISTORY

Genesis means origins or book of beginnings. In this first book of the Bible we learn about the beginning of the human race. In chapter one of Genesis, we learn that God created the heavens and earth, humanity, and everything that exists. Everything that was created was without sin and God called it very good (Gen. 1:31). In Genesis 2:15, we learn that God put man in the garden of Eden to take care of it. Then God gave man a command to obey. *"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."* (Gen. 2:16-17)

1. How did man respond to God's command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

Genesis 3:6 - *"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate."*

2. What were the consequences of man's disobedience to God's command?

Romans 5:12 - *"Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned."*

Romans 5:16 - *"...For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation..."*
(Condemnation means to declare wrong or to pronounce guilty.)

Romans 5:19a - *"For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners..."*

II. A PERSONAL EVALUATION

1. Do you consider yourself to be a good person? If God were to judge you by the Ten Commandments (Read Exodus 20:1-17), how would you fair?

YES or NO 1. Have you always put God first in your life?

YES or NO 2. Is there anything you have put in place of God, that you have loved more than God?

YES or NO 3. Have you ever used God's name as a curse word?

YES or NO 4. Have you been faithful to worship God with the church on Sundays?

YES or NO 5. Have you always honored your parents in a way that pleases God?

YES or NO 6. Have you ever committed murder?

1 John 3:15 - *"Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer..."*

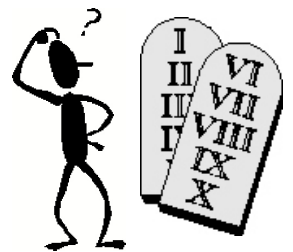
YES or NO 7. Have you ever committed adultery?

Matthew 5:28 - *"...everyone who looks at a woman(or man) with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her(or him) in his heart."*

YES or NO 8. Have you ever stolen something (even something small)?

YES or NO 9. Have you ever told a lie (even a white lie)?

YES or NO 10. Have you ever strongly desired to have something that belonged to another person?



2. What is God's standard for obeying His commands according to the following passages?

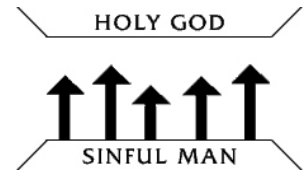
Jam. 2:10 - *"For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it."*

Matthew 5:48 - *"You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*

III. MANKIND'S CONDITION

A. Understanding Man's Core Problem,

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23)



1. How do these passages define sin?

1 John 3:4b - "Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness."
(Definition: lawlessness can be defined as disobeying what God commands in His Word.)

1 John 5:17a - "All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death."

Romans 7:7 - "What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

SIN is any failure to follow what God commands in act, attitude, or character.

- In other words, it is falling short or missing God's standard in any way.
- It is disobeying what God commands in His Word or doing what He forbids.
- Ultimately, it is anything that displeases God.

2. When does sin become a part of a person's life?

Psalm 51:5 - "*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity (sin), and in sin did my mother conceive me."*

(Iniquity (sin) means a wicked act or thing.)

[TEACHER EXTRA: Sin is not just what we do, but it is who we are. Because we all came from Adam, we are all born sinners.]

3. According to these passages, who commits sins?

1 Kings 8:46 - "*If they sin against you— for there is no one who does not sin—and you are angry with them...*"

Ecclesiastes 7:20 - "*Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins."*

1 John 1:8 - "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

4. How do these passages describe man's effort to seek God and do good (righteous deeds) to please God?

Isaiah 64:6 - "We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away."

Psalm 14:2-3 - "The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one."

Roman 3:9-12 - "What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

[TEACHER EXTRA: It should be noted that man can do good on a human level. But man's good works in and of themselves cannot please God. In other words, man can't do spiritual good or be good in terms with their relationship with God. Rom. 8:8 - "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God."]



B. Understanding Man's Sin Nature

What is a sin nature? Because Adam and Eve's sin is passed down through the whole human race, every person is born a sinner. This inherited sin corrupts our nature. Therefore, each of us is born with an instinct and tendency to commit sin. Because of this inherited corruption, everyone has a natural sinful character, sinful attitudes, and appetites to sin. Just like Ephesians 2:3 tells us, "*...carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*"

1. According to these passages, how is man's heart described in light of the effects of sin?

Jeremiah 17:9 - "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"

Mark 7:21-23 - "For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

2. In the following passages, write down how our sinful nature is described and the effects of sin.

Galatians 5:19-21 - "Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Romans 7:18a - "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out."

Romans 8:7-8 - "For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

IV. THE CONSEQUENCES OF MANKIND'S SIN

1. According to these passages, what are the consequences of man's sin?

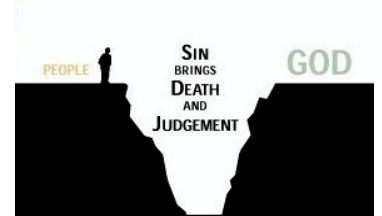
James 1:15 - "Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."

John 8:34 - "Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.'"

Ephesians 4:18 - "They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart."

Isaiah 59:2 - "but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear."

Hebrews 9:27 - "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,"



2. According the following passages, what happens after people die and face God as Judge?

Matthew 12:36 - "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak."

Romans 14:12 - "So then each of us will give an account of himself to God."

Ecclesiastes 12:14 - "For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil."

Matthew 16:27 - "For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then He will repay each person according to what he has done."

3a. What does the Bible say that this judgement day will be like?

Revelation 20:11-14 - Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire."

3b. What will be the result of those who's names are not found written in the book of life?

Revelation 20:15 - "And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

Suggested Reading

Certainly, a person could walk away from this study and feel a sense of hopelessness. But keep in mind that there is hope, and that hope is found in the Lord Jesus Christ. In the next lesson, you will learn about the remedy to man's sin problem. In preparation for the next study, you might consider reading as much as you desire of the Gospel of John starting in chapter one.