

## Chapter Three

# The Design of Man and His Planned Fall

*If God has **not** given me sovereignty over my own life, then me giving Lordship back to Him has no meaning.*

### Loving God Requires the Capacity to Choose

Since God wanted man to love Him; necessarily, God had to design man so man could have, at least, the capability of loving Him.

In order to love God meaningfully, we must have the choice to love or not love Him. That's because the nature of real love from the heart is voluntary. Love results from a motivating decision to act for the betterment of another. Therefore, love requires the capacity to choose and reason.

We can only show love when its present in our heart. It must be given from a heart that *wants* to give it. If love is not present, then the alternatives; indifference or hate will be present. Of course, there are all varying degrees of love, indifference or hate. So anyway, love must be freely given.

But even God chooses, I believe, not to extract love if not present. I hesitate to say He cannot, because some may think I am impugning God's sovereignty. The situation is He doesn't; because to do so is not loving. If He did, He would violate His own loving character. Besides, can you order the heart loving or do you just order outer action? If God were to force man to obey, man's heart would get hard and resentful. Wasn't this proven with peoples attitudes under the Mosaic Law?<sup>1</sup> However, there is another possibility.

He also could have made people with free

agency but control the environment such that they were manipulated into doing the creator's will (hypercalvinism).<sup>2</sup> Thus He could control all things but present to the creation the appearance of choice.

This plan would produce love in the creature for the creator until the creature discovered the truth. Then what would he think? Doubt!<sup>3</sup> The creature would end up questioning his own love for God. He might even feel used or defrauded. At best, man would only love God for a finite time period.

As you will remember, God wants man to love Him forever; because Heaven is forever, not just a finite period of time. The following is what hypercalvinism offers as systematic theology. That God Himself, before the foundation of the world, determined who, where, and why every man goes to his particular destiny. But later, as men live their lives, God provides the appearance that the individual chooses to love God. This theory makes God out to be liar.

For this reason, Calvinism cannot fulfill the central purpose for the creation.

Since love cannot be taken or extracted, God has gone to tremendous effort to create conditions which will persuade people to love Him. Let's look at the mechanism of "choosing" a little closer.

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2. Calvinists believe that "since God has infinite understanding and ability, His plan must extend to every detail of the world's existence." See [The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination](#), pp. 13,23.

3. Satan to Eve in the Garden: "Hath God said ...." Genesis 3:1

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1. See Isaiah 65:2, Psalms 95:8-11

## Personal Sovereignty

The capacity to choose means the capacity to make decisions between alternatives.<sup>4</sup> We know the "will" chooses in the best interest of the overall person because God said "...for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes it and cherishes it, . . ." (Eph. 5:29). Which means, among other things, that since I control it, I treat it good.

I do not see man's will as an entity in itself, like the mind or emotions, but it is a decision process which the mind uses to choose between various alternatives.

The decision making process chooses in the best interest of the overall person based on the inputs at the time. Let's take a simple example like getting up in the morning.

The body jerks to consciousness at 6AM as the alarm goes off, and immediately inputs come streaming into the intellect (mind).

I still feel tired (he unconsciously attaches some degree of importance to that feeling) . . . I didn't get my usual amount of sleep (I only got 6 hours) . . . Work is such a bummer these days (my boss is such a jerk) . . . Maybe I should call in sick . . . But, I need the money . . . I guess I better get up. So you get up and go to work.

The decision making logical process chose the best alternative for the whole man based, in this case, on a responsible thought pattern.

Intuitively, we see that we make sovereign decisions over our own life. And that is why God can say in all fairness that we are responsible for the decisions made in life. Therefore, in all fairness, He can hold each of us responsible to love Him.

God is sovereign over the creation (Psalm 103:19). God made man in His image (Gen. 1:26). And a part of that image is the element of sovereignty over ones own life. I suggested that in Chapter One. I get to choose what I will do with my own life. That is, I am in control of those aspects of my life which is within my

power to control (Dan. 4:36, 11:4). If God has not given me sovereignty over my own life, then I giving lordship back to Him has no meaning. Sovereignty over my own life is necessary to choose, to love or not to love, God. Personal sovereignty is necessary for God holding me responsible for my thoughts and actions.<sup>5</sup> That is, sending me to either Heaven or Hell because of what I have done in my life.

## Mans Sovereignty and His Fallen Nature

God created man, Adam and Eve, in His own image. This means we have some of His attributes. We have the capacity to choose, reason and create in order to have the capacity to love Him. Inherent in these attributes is the instinctive desire for sovereignty over one's own life. Its the same kind of sovereignty that God possesses but ours is only over our own life. His is over everything.

God is ultimately sovereign; that is, He relates all other things to Himself.<sup>6</sup> He forms opinions and makes decisions based on His perfect character and infinite knowledge. Everything He does is in harmony with Himself.<sup>7</sup> He forms opinions and makes decisions about the creation, the sum of which, describe His nature.

Since He is sovereign over the creation, His nature defines the perfect nature (i.e., the standard of perfection). This means that any nature not in harmony with His nature is imperfect, different, incongruent or, in religious words, "sinful" or "fallen." Ryrie quotes Buswell, "Sin may be defined ultimately as anything in the creature which does not express, or which is contrary to, the holy character of the creator."<sup>8</sup> But here is the problem.

Man also forms opinions and makes decisions about the creation. Only his character is

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4. As Lorraine Boettner puts it, "By a free and responsible agent we mean an intelligent person who acts with rational self-determination." -"The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination", p.208.

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5. Parable of money usage, Luke 19:11-27

6. Is.40:1-31; I Tim.6:15; Rev.11:17; Understanding Man, pp.35-36.

7. Ibid, p. 35; Ps.50:1-6,12; Job 40:1-14

8. Basic Theology, page 212.

flawed and knowledge finite at best. And, He doesn't realize he is missing God's perfect character and infinite knowledge. But he just goes right ahead and forms opinions, and makes decisions anyway.

Because man has been separated from God since Adam, man's opinions and decisions are different than God's. Because, they are based on incomplete information and flawed character. These conditions cause man to form opinions and make decisions not in harmony with God's opinions and decisions. This gives men a different point of view which is not shared by God.

This is terrible because the more decisions made and opinions formed, not in harmony with God's opinions and point of view, the more blinded man becomes about the truth of God.<sup>9</sup>

In short, man's thought patterns get further and further from God's thought patterns (Rom. 8:5-9). Therefore man's opinions and point of view, which describe man's nature, becomes different from God's nature (Mark 7:14-21). Thus, man has a "fallen" or "sinful" or "evil" nature when he thinks differently than God over a period of time.

This is one of mankind's basic problems. ***Each man believes he can successfully manage his own life without God's help.*** In fact, he assumes it. And he doesn't realize that God's knowledge and Spirit are the missing components between his thinking and God's thinking. And therefore, *he* makes decisions about his own life without consulting God, and believes it's normal.

The "fallen" or "sin" nature of man, that so many pastors and writers refer to, is man's capacity to choose, reason and learn combined with sovereignty over his own life; add to that, finite knowledge and imperfect character, all producing a recipe for thinking and doing one's own thing (Pro. 21:2).

This all means that God made us in His image capable of independent thought and action so we would be capable of loving Him. But along with that, *God decided He would*

*accept the constraint that man would exercise sovereignty over his own life.* That is, man doing His own thing; even if he didn't love God. It is this condition which makes the salvation process so difficult for God and men.

Thus, being *capable* of loving Him is one thing, but *actually choosing* to love or not love Him is quite a different matter.

## Knowing Good and Evil

The definition of "good" is the opinions and decisions of God about life, love, and spirituality which define His nature. These are given to us in the Bible.<sup>10</sup>

The definition of "evil" is the opinions, decisions and actions of man. While not all of man's thoughts and actions are "bad," the sum total of man's opinions, decisions and nature is different from God's opinions, decisions and nature.

To actually choose to love God for all eternity, it would be necessary for man to know both "good" and "evil" and still choose to love God.

Without knowing both "good" and "evil," man could not be sure God is telling him the truth. Or for that matter, be sure demons are lying to him.

Experiencing only "good" or only "evil" restricts your contrast of the definition of "good" and "evil". How bad is "evil"? How good is "good"? How good is "evil"? How evil is "good"? Without a contrast, you don't know.

For example: a boy is in the kitchen while mom is cooking. Young Mr. Curious reaches out to feel the hot stove. Mom exclaims, "Don't touch it! It's hot." The boy believes mom and withdraws his hand. Without any experience of how hot is heat, he is susceptible to the question, "what is hot?" He continues to believe for a time.

One day, when mom has her back turned, his curiosity about heat overcomes his fuzzy perspective of what "hot" means. So he touches the

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9. See Eph.4:17-19; Rom.1:20-24; Pro.16:25.

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10. God is love - I John 4:16; Fruit of the Spirit - Gal.5:22-23; The divine nature - II Peter 1:4-8;

burner. He is singed and thereby experiences the heat. He now has an appreciation of fingers that don't hurt that he didn't have before. He has a new experience. Of course he is not willing to sacrifice another finger to find out what "hot" means, because now he knows.

He has gone from a "believer" to a "knower". (I will use these terms later). Beforehand, his curiosity and doubt caused him to question mom's claim. Afterwards, there was no longer any question. Before his burner experience, he doubted mom's word. After his burner experience, doubt was taken away. He now has the contrast of hurting fingers with fingers that don't hurt. The contrast tells him that mom was right, and not to touch the stove burner again.

This is the way God will persuade us to love Him forever. He will dispel Satan's question; "hath God said . . . (Gen. 3:1)" forever by allowing us to get "burned" by the experience of our own "wrong thinking" and blessed by accepting His revealed "right thinking." The contrast between the two tells us we want a blessing and we don't want to get burned; in Hell. Therefore, I want God's ways in my life.

Satan's question to the Garden couple is the essence of doubt and unbelief in God and His plan. But first, let's look at how Lucifer *may* have become Satan, to see why Adam and Eve doubted God; to see why you and I doubt God.

## **How Lucifer May Have Become Satan**

What I am about to relate in this section is an *educated estimate* regarding how Lucifer *may have* degenerated from glorious angel to perverted satan. What I relate may not be 100% truth. You be the judge. You can read about Lucifer in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28.

Before Adam, God created a heavenly kingdom. Among His creations were the angels and His masterpiece Lucifer, Star of the Morning, Son of the Dawn (Ezek. 28:12). He was perfect in form and character Ezek. 28:12, 15). He had charge over all God's heavenly creation with only God his superior.

Prior to his rebellion, he knew no sin (Ezek. 28:12, 15). He knew "good" but not "evil" because it had not been invented yet. All his choices were God's choices. All his options were options which had God's blessing.

Because he could choose, reason and learn, he had the capacity to *create* options not given him by God. But what is unique is that Lucifer could not have known beforehand that he could rebel because a contrary thought pattern had never come about before. All his options were "good". No matter what decision he made, it was God's will, and therefore good. Let me illustrate.

Let's say you put your small son in a playpen, and give him four new toys. At first he is delighted. No matter which toy he chooses, it is one you wanted him to have. But eventually he gets to know all the toys well. So it was with Lucifer, making choices between "good options" and learning all about God's creation for him.

Back in the playpen, the child, knowing the toys well, begins to get bored, which prompts creativeness. His abilities to choose, reason and learn, developed by the toy room, cause him to wonder about, then desire a toy that he does not now have. The baby starts to fuss. So it was with Lucifer, he developed, on his own, an option that God did not present to him.

At some point, Lucifer discovered, as God knew he would, that he could choose to follow his own invented option or follow God's option for him. This was new to him! This was very interesting! Now he knew something that he didn't think God knew. After all, he just invented the option!

Since Lucifer had not yet fallen, he had no experience different from what God's options gave him. He had no reason for not choosing his new invented option because he had sovereignty over the creation. Lucifer had charge of the whole creation; that is, absolute power over the creation second only to God (Matt. 4:8, 9).

This situation presented enormous internal "decision maker"<sup>11</sup> pressure for his new inter-

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11. See explanation under "How People Make Decisions," p. 74.

esting option and little pressure for God's "old hat" option. So he chose his own way and went on to choose his own way at other times.

Thus, His absolute power coupled with imperfect thought patterns (different from God's) and finite knowledge led him away from God to become Satan, an antigod. He went from Lucifer, with a one-sided perspective of "good," to Satan, with a two-sided perspective of "good" and "evil" (Matt. 4:8-9). After knowing both "good" and "evil," he chose evil. Satan thought he was smarter than God by inventing new options when, in fact, he did as God expected. He thought he could win mankind away from God. That is why there is no redemption plan for fallen angels. While knowing "good" and "evil," they chose evil (Jude 6). Satan became God's tool, to cause man to choose clearly, between the true and living God, and a little god; the self.

## Why Adam and Eve Doubted God

Enter Adam and Eve; the innocents who knew nothing of all these goings on. Adam and Eve had a similar situation to Lucifer before their fall. They had the capacity to choose, reason and learn (Gen. 1:26) in order to love or not love God.

They also had a one-sided perspective; knowing only "good". Their sphere of knowledge consisted of only that which God provided for them in the Garden. That which God wanted them to have. That which was "good."

The one thing that Adam and Eve lacked was the contrast between good and evil (Gen. 3:5-7); they didn't have enough truth to conclude that God was right when He said that they would die if they ate from the tree of the Knowledge of good and evil. God couldn't give them a contrast without revealing the knowledge of evil. This is the whole point; the lack of the "good" / "evil" perspective. The lesson is that truth only has *significance* as truth, when contrasted with *known* untruth on the same subject. Consider the little kid who burned his fingers.

Before he burned his fingers, he didn't know the pain associated with hot. He also didn't realize that pain free fingers constitutes "good." But afterward, there would never again be any question about what hot meant. The pain, provided the "evil" side of the contrast. It was the same way with Adam and Eve.

Since they had no contrast, no perspective of known untruth, they weren't sure God was telling them the truth. Or for that matter, that Satan was telling them a lie. For a while, they were "believers" of the "good" God revealed, but not "knowers." "Knowing" comes only from having the additional perspective of the "evil." side of the contrast.. Hence, they were vulnerable to Satan's question; "Hath God said, You shall not eat...? (Gen. 3:1)"

Previously, they assumed God was right, but now there was some question. This situation prompted them to examine both sides of this new question in preparation of a decision. They were going to decide whether or not to eat.

*This subtle change is the root of man's basic problem; transferring decision making authority from God to self.* I believe the following is how people make decisions.

## How People Make Decisions

God made us with a Body, Soul and Spirit. These are all of the components of a whole person.

### The Body

The Body is our flesh. The part which houses our inner being. In computer terms, it is the hardware.

### The Soul

The soul; that is, our mind, will and emotions are the part that make us *like* other individuals. If we looked at the soul in computer terms, our "mind" would be analogous to the central processor which actually does the reasoning. Into the mind stream inputs, which have various degrees of importance attached,

used in the process of forming an opinion or making a decision. We have our logic section that suggests what is reasonable. We have our long and short term memories that provide data which is applicable to the decision at hand. We have our sensors which provide inputs regarding the world around us at the time. We also have emotions that have an effect on the present decision and / or acceptance of data as facts.

That portion of the soul, the so called "will", in my humble opinion, is a decision process; not an entity, which weighs the viable alternatives of any formulation or decision question. Each alternative has more or less important aspects, which in-effect, apply pressure on ones decision-maker (will) toward a decision for that particular alternative.

When we are listening to, and have to interpret, what someone else says or does, we take it all in and accept or reject the ideas as our perception filters the data.

Our perception is mostly governed by previously accepted information about life. That is, a person interprets each new piece of data in light of what he has previously accepted. This process tends to lend stability to one's life and yet it allows a person to discard old data and put new data in its place. This includes old beliefs replaced by new beliefs. This includes pagan beliefs replaced by Godly beliefs.

In addition to thoughts generated by our own mind, the Holy Spirit and demonic spirits also provide external inputs which affect our decisions.<sup>12</sup> They come in the form of thoughts that appear as our own. One of the major issues of the christian life is how do we tell the Holy Spirit's whisper from a demonic whisper? The answer to that question is: we discern between Satan's and the Holy Spirit's whispers by comparing them to the scripture. The scripture is the truth. *This is a major reason for learning Scripture; to prevent deception.*

Over time, a body of data is accumulated in the form of life memories and experiences. In the end, what we accept as truth now, puts pres-

sure on our decision-maker for succeeding opinions and decisions.

### **The Spirit**

The spirit (heart) of a man is the disposition of the soul as measured by the nature of ones life memories. Is he a "health nut"; or "an old softy"; or maybe "an animal lover"; these are examples of dispositions of the heart. It is the spirit of a man which makes each individual *unique*.

Now, the "spirit" of a man, in the Biblical sense, is the character of those life memories with respect to God. Does the character of my life experiences reflect the nature of God and oneness with God? Or is my image more like an animal? Is it the character of my life to put God before self, or vice verse? Am I committed to God or committed to self? With these parameters in mind, let's get back to Adam and Eve.

### **Decision Making**

Pressure on Adam and Eve's decision maker came from wondering what "dieing" might mean. God said, (paraphrase) the same day that you eat you will die. But they lacked information about the consequences of dieing. And God couldn't tell them what "dieing" meant without revealing the knowledge of the "evil" side of the contrast between good and evil. But without an awareness of the consequences of dieing, not much godly fear would be produced in them. Without godly fear, pressure on their decision-maker (Will) against eating, would be low.

Decision-maker pressure *for* eating the forbidden fruit was moderate to high because satan appealed to their physical senses (lusts). These sensory inputs applied more pressure to the decision-maker because they had previously experienced "good" things to look at (lust of the eyes) and things that "taste good" (lust of the flesh). The assertion that "it was good to make one wise (pride of life)."<sup>13</sup>

Since their lust applied more decision-

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12. See Luke 12:12; John 14:16,17,26; Acts 5:3,4; I Kings 22:20-23

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13. I John 2:15-16

maker pressure than Godly instruction applied to their decision-maker, they decided to eat.

Before the decision was made, they probably spent time thinking about the lusts. This was their downfall because the mind set on the flesh is spiritual death (Rom. 8:6). That means, when your mind is preoccupied with concerns of the flesh, the world, or the devil, you are *not thinking* about God and the things of the spirit.

They did not have the wisdom <sup>14</sup> necessary to properly run their own lives without God. But they thought they did. *This is man's basic problem then and now: making decisions about life without a Godly perspective.*

If you were a Fox News reporter, standing at the entrance to the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve were driven out by the cherubim, and you ask them about their decision to eat; they would probably say it was the wrong choice but it seemed like a good idea at the time. Have you ever said that?

What was different? (1) They are now out of the Garden and (2), God is gone. They have a contrast between good *and* evil they did not have before. Like the little kid with burned fingers, they have become "knowers" rather than just "believers". They have a new perspective. There is no longer any question; "Hath God said...You shall not eat from it lest you die?" They now *know* that "dieing," means separation from God, and no garden!

They now *know* the definition of "spiritual death"; that is, physical separation from God. Physical death would come later. But for now they have three bigger problems.

The *first* "bigger problem" is that God must allow them and all men to *physically die*; in fulfillment of His promise that if you eat, you will surely die (Gen. 2:17). In other words, sin leads to death (Rom. 6:23); spiritual death first then physical death later.

The *second* is the garden couple and all men are separated from God which is *spiritual death*.

And the *third* "bigger problem" is: man still isn't to the point where he can *love* (obey, appreciate, and worship) *God* for all eternity. The "Natural (unregenerate) Man", born since Adam, cannot love God because you cannot love whom you do not know. And from whom you are separated, you cannot come to know on your own. Therefore, it is not possible for man to know or love God.<sup>15</sup>

To get a perspective on why man needs salvation, let's take a look at each of these "bigger" problems.

### The necessity of Physical death

Normally, we think of physical death as a person ceasing to exist. It is like a wind-up toy that is alive until it runs down. It stops.... If you watch the toy or corpse long enough, it will deteriorate until it disappears.

Physical death is a separation of the soul and spirit from the body. When the body dies, the soul and spirit does not just cease to exist like the memory of a switched off computer. It moves to the spirit world (Luke 16:22-25; II Cor. 5:1-9). However, men who are still alive can no longer perceive the soul or spirit of the dead person. It is gone from the body as far as the live person is concerned.

You may have heard people talk about out-of-body experiences, where the consciousness looks down upon the still body but ends up reentering the body. This may be true but when death is decreed by God, the soul and spirit leave until judgement. The soul and spirit is reunited with a spiritual body at one of the two coming resurrections after which is judgement (Rev. 20).

Physical death is a method for God to control the propagation of the otherwise overwhelming sin in the world. God had to prevent Adam, and everyone since, from eating of the Tree of Life (Gen. 3:24). Barring everyone from the Tree of Life created physical death.

Suppose God had allowed people to eat

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14. Pro.2:1-5, 6-9, 10-13; Knowledge of truth, administered with the character of God equals wisdom demonstrated. I Corinthians 1:30

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15. This is why, to this extent, Calvinism's Total Inability doctrine is correct.

from the Tree of Life. They would not die. But neither would ungodly thinking end. If people were born but did not die, the population of the world would have been hundreds of trillions by now. All of the planet's people would be contaminated over and over again with ungodly thinking and actions. The overwhelming, ever increasing mountain of sin filled hearts would unmercifully squash any pittance of Godly thinking that might arise (Gen. 6:5-13). God's purpose for the creation could never be realized.

From this, we can see that physical death provides for an end of the preponderance of ungodly thinking on the earth (James 1:15). Unfortunately, it also ends Godly thinking.

With physical death, people born since Adam can choose, without undue pressure from society, to open themselves to Godly influence. Therefore, physical death is really a loving part of God's plan. It is a door opened to the next life.

## Man's Separation from God

As you will remember, we left Adam and Eve just outside of the garden. Here they sit, Eve softly weeps. Adam, sitting on a small bundle of personal effects, stares into a rather bleak landscape; miles and miles of nothing ... No shelter, no way to make one . . . wet and hot . . . so lonely . . . what are we going to eat . . . how could she be so dumb to listen to that snake . . . I wish we had listened to the Lord. Where is He anyway?

As sad as it seems, it was *necessary* for God to physically separate Himself from them and men since. Because man would corrupt the place of God's abode by God having to put up with the disunity of man's different thinking.<sup>16</sup>

Besides, the test of whether man will, or won't, love God needs to be tested in a neutral environment. How neutral would the test be with the Almighty God, and or Satan, breathing

down your neck every two minutes (Ex. 19:12-23)?

The test wouldn't be fair to man and wouldn't accomplish God's goals.<sup>17</sup> Thus God had to physically separate Himself from the garden couple.

Now out of the garden, they had a contrast between "good" and "evil." They understood how "good" life was in the Garden, and they also understood how "bad" life is now, out of the Garden. This contrast, which could insure their loyalty to God forever, was useless because they were separated from Him. This means they were alone, out-of-contact, lost and away from the presence of God. Just like us.

In the absence of God, what would they think about? Naturally, it would be their situation around them. What would their kids think about? The same thing. However, would their kids think about God as much as Adam and Eve, given no contact with God? Probably not. Thus, the idea of God, in succeeding generations, would eventually die out. Scripture bears that out; man's corrupt ways brought about the flood.

If this happened to Adam and Eve, when they previously had perfect character but limited knowledge, then it could happen to others in history.

This means that men born since Adam and Eve also have a *one-sided* perspective. They only have the perspective of "evil." Because Adam and Eve became separated from God, their children never experienced God. They only have the dubious benefit of their parents *faith*; that is, the stories, thoughts and actions about God as guidelines. Over time, since their parents thoughts are different from Gods thoughts, their own thoughts are even further from God's. This is why you see a moral decline in society as the generations pass.

Whereas Adam and Eve, before the fall, knew only "good" and had fellowship with God; after the fall, generations knew only "evil" (thoughts different from God's) because they

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16. See Isaiah 59:1-2, 64:7; Ezekiel 23:18; Amos 3:2-3; Romans 8:7; Hebrews 12:14

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17. If God pressured man, then as we saw before, compliance would not be true love.

were separated from Him. Thus, men born since Adam, if they ever do hear about God, are back in the same situation as the garden couple; in the position of making a decision about God's truth while in the midst of doubt. *This is an impossible situation for man.*

## **Impossible Situation for Man**

Two factors cause him to never love God, and thus he has to suffer the eternal consequences.<sup>18</sup> The first is that from Adam on, we were separated physically from God. The second is that from Adam on, we were separated spiritually.

Why? Because our thinking processes came to be different from God's by: (1) Adam and Eve's wrong thinking; by (2) our ability to invent new thought options, and by (3) Satan influencing our thought patterns away from God's thought patterns. These factors cause man to form opinions and make decisions resulting in ever diverging thought patterns away from God's thought patterns.

The ultimate end is no possibility to think like God again; much less act like Him, and so there is no possibility of restoration to God's presence by our own effort. Even the concept of God is lost in generations past. We are lost, wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked (Rev. 3:17); just like Adam and Eve sitting at the edge of the garden. Without God's guidance, man is destined for greater and greater debauchery and inhumanity to man. And so every man, each one, you and I; all families included, are headed for Hell.<sup>19</sup> *But this is also an impossible situation for God.*

## **Impossible Situation for God**

For God's desire to be accomplished, that is obtaining a people who would love Him forever,

He necessarily had to create them capable of choosing to *not* love Him, expose them to the concept of rebellion, allow them to die, separate them from Himself, and then set up conditions such that they would choose His leadership, instead of continuing their own rebellious leadership.

In addition, men would have to be "knowers" not just "believers" that God's thinking is best. This means men would have to *experience* God as well as "believe" in Him. But the Natural Man can't experience Him because the Natural Man is separated from Him.

Therefore; if God was going to have a people that would love Him forever, then He would have to take the initiative to: (1) overcome physical death; (2) bridge the separation gap over spiritual death; and, (3) devise a way for man to love Him; all without violating any aspect of His perfect character.

***These are the conditions which established the need for God's salvation plan for mankind.***

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18. This view assumes no salvation plan yet, because I am establishing the need for one.

19. Permanent separation from God; the second death, Revelation 20:6,10

