

i-design Men & the Fall

Reminder Of Key Truths

- Created by God in His Image – male & female
- Equal in value – distinct in make up and role
- Designed for specific roles:
 - clear in creation account
 - clear in the differences of our bodies
 - clear in the teaching of scripture
- Sin has caused a problem in embracing and living it out

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Last Week:

1. Men Built to Be Productive

- cultivator, creative, designed to work

2. Men Built to Be Warriors

- protect, guard, stand up for, defend
- aggressive, competitive, instinctive

3. Men Built to Leave Legacies

- generations established, pass on beyond

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Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' " "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

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The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." Gen. 3

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Proverbs – father instructing the son

Three common distortions from the fall

1. Abuse Your Role

a) Producer – all about your stuff, treasure on earth

- cultivate our desires, will, focus on what we build

- "Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked man ruling over a helpless people." 28:15

- "When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers, but a man of understanding and knowledge maintains order. A ruler who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain that leaves no crops." 28:2-3

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b) Warrior

- use power and strength for intimidation not protection

- *“Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them. If they say, "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul; let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse"- my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood. How useless to spread a net in full view of all the birds! These men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only themselves! Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the lives of those who get it.” Proverbs 1:8-19*

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c) Legacy

- abuse the authority given by God
- Adam – blaming God & Eve
- becomes a personal legacy – not about God

2. Avoiders

- path of least resistance, don't want to embrace what I was designed for
- not doing evil, just not doing good or right things

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a) Producers

- no plan, no path, not willing to commit

- selfish – don't count on me

- *“Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, “Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow”— when you now have it with you.” 3:27-28*

- *“Laziness brings on deep sleep, and the shiftless man goes hungry. He who obeys instructions guards his life, but he who is contemptuous of his ways will die.” 19:15-16*

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b) Warrior

- pretends it doesn't exist, not my problem
- avoids conflict, hard discussions
- Adam silent when serpent attacks God's intentions and Eve's obedience

-Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. 24:11

c) Legacy

- shortcuts, food w/o work, home w/o mortgage, sex w/o marriage, kids w/o responsibilities or expectations
- don't look at me

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- how do they get there? *“If a man pampers his servant from youth, he will bring grief in the end.” 29:21*

3. Abandons

- they start out well, and quit when the going gets tough

a) Productive

- chooses a job – quits, takes a wife – gives up. Has kids – absent, joins a church – leaves when asked to work

- *“If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength!” 24:10*

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b) Warrior

- leaves his post, runs when looks desperate, takes the easy road, gives up
- his abandonment leaves open threat his loved ones
- easier to give in than fight, happy in short term vs. healthy in long run, no energy for this battle – quit.

c) Legacy

- I have to be happy, do what I desire
- this is my chance
- refuse to be a redeemer of that which is broken

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So What

1. Designed For a Role – carry the very image of God
2. Fall Makes this Harder to Understand and Embrace
3. Must be on Guard Against
 - a) Being and Abuser of the role
 - b) Being and Avoider of the role
 - c) Being a Abandoner of the role
4. God is In the Business of Redeeming our Mistakes