



Jeremy White, Lead Pastor
Valley Church

January 12 & 13, 2019
Week 2: From Relationship to Religion

INTRODUCTION:

"The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame." (Genesis 2:25)

THREE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FALL:

1. _____ (Gen. 3:1-6)

4 Tactics Used by the Enemy:

_____ ("Did God really say...?")

_____ ("...don't eat from any tree...?")

_____ ("...you will not surely die.")

_____ ("...you will be like God...")

2. _____ (vs. 7)

"...and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves."

3. _____ (vs. 8-21)

"But the LORD God called to the man 'Where are you?'"

"The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them."

THE BIG IDEA:

God could have abandoned humanity at our point of rebellion. He could have abandoned us at our point of foolish religious effort. Instead, He never let us go – providing an answer for our sins on His terms – the terms of GRACE – ultimately pointing to Jesus.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. As you think about the three major developments discussed in the weekend message (rebellion → religion → rescue) – share briefly about how each of these has been a part of your personal life story...

Ponderings:

2. Prior to the weekend message, had you ever considered “religion” as a primary spiritual enemy? Why or why not – and if so, in what sense?
3. In the New Testament, James says that it is possible for God to consider some religious expressions to be “pure and faultless” (see **James 1:26-27**). Yet even the “purest” religious motives cannot save from sin. Why is this the case?
4. Read **Genesis 3:21-24** as a group. Even though God restored fellowship with Adam and Eve by “clothing” them on his own terms – He banished them from the Garden. Is there any indication you find in these verses for why this might be so? Discuss...
5. Read **Romans 5:12-21** as a group and discuss the following...
 - In this passage, we are told that death (the consequence of sin) “reigned” from the time of Adam to Moses. In what sense did Moses’ giving of the Law begin to aim the spotlight on God’s grace?
 - The gift (rescue/salvation) was not like the trespass (rebellion/sin). Try to explain in your own words what the principal difference really is between the nature of the two...
 - If God’s gracious act of justification “brings life for all men” (v. 18) then why are not ALL people saved? Universalism claims this verse implies that all people *will* be saved. Discuss...
6. Thinking back over the story of the fall of humanity (Genesis 3) what specific acts of God’s mercy and grace are highlighted in the story? What details point to the reality of a coming Savior?

Promptings:

7. In the week ahead, identify one specific attitude (either rebellious, religious or both) that may be hindering your ability to rest in the grace of God. Confess that area to the Lord each day and ask Him to help you to rest in His grace and walk by His Spirit.