

IMMANUEL IN THE GARDEN

GENESIS 2-3

12/1/2024

I. WHY DO WE DESIRE TO BE WITH GOD?

Genesis 1:26-27 – “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

A. We are image-bearers

B. We were created to be with God

II. GOD CREATED SACRED SPACE

Genesis 2:15 - “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”

A. The Garden of Eden was created for God to dwell with us

B. There was freedom to be with God

III. GOD GAVE SACRED COMMANDS

Genesis 2:16-17 - “And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 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.’”

A. The commands preserved God as Immanuel

B. Immanuel requires that God is not like us

- He is God and we are not

IV. WE BROKE THE SACREDNESS

Genesis 3:5- “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

A. We wanted to be like God...not with God

Genesis 3:7 - “Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.”

B. We tried to preserve God with us and failed

Genesis 3:16-19 – “To the woman he said, ‘I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.’¹⁷ And to Adam he said, ‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.’”

Genesis 3:24 - "He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life"

C. The blessing of being with God was replaced with curses

V. HOPE OF IMMANUEL

A. God promises to come back as Immanuel

Genesis 3:15 - "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

B. God's grace in continuing to commune with us

Genesis 3:2 - "And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them"

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Why is it important for us as Christians to better grasp the concept of God as Immanuel?
3. What are some ways that we can help non-Christians see God as Immanuel? How might this be beneficial to them?
4. As Image-Bearers created to be with God, how does He give us our identity? What are some identities that we seek after apart from God? Why are these dangerous?
5. What about being with God (in the future) motivates you as a Christian living in the world today?
6. What is one thing from the message or the group discussion this week that you want to live out? How can the group be praying for you to accomplish that?