

#5 THE DOCTRINE OF BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

30 PRACTICAL DOCTRINES YOU NEED TO KNOW / DR. RANDY WHITE

WITH THE “FALL OF MAN,” HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WERE BROKEN

- Man’s relationship with God –
 - Before the first sin, every appearance of Scripture is that God and man talked openly, walked together, and were in perfect union.
 - After the first sin:
 - Genesis 3:8-10 – the relationship was broken.
 - Genesis 3:23-24 – the proximity was made impossible.
- Marital relationships –
 - Before the first sin: Genesis 2:23 – excitement and awe.
 - After the first sin: Genesis 3:12 – blame combined with shame.
- Person-to-person –
 - Genesis 4:7-8 – the first murder.
 - A note on verse 7: The Hebrew word translated **sin** is actually the word for *sin offering*. The masculine/feminine in the Hebrew grammar requires that a *male lieth at the door*. Since a sin offering is feminine, the idea must, by grammar, be *a male* is lying at the door, one whose **desire is unto thee** (that is, he desires to help you). This could be either a sacrificial lamb or, more likely, a picture of Christ. Cain is told that **thou shalt rule over him** (note again that **sin** is feminine, just as *sin-offering*, so **him** would not be the correct pronoun to refer to either). In the end, it was Cain's choice to take the *sacrifice* or to leave it and carry on as his own.
- By Genesis 4, the first sin has negatively affected every relationship.
- We cannot erase the effects of the fall, but we can take actions that will provide an ordered (and thus healthy) society.

SOCIETY HAS STRUGGLED WITH VAGUE NOTIONS OF RELATIONAL ORDER

- One Extreme: Everyone is equal in all things.
- Another Extreme: Some people have no equality in anything.
- Both extremes lead to chaos and personal injustice.

THE BIBLE GIVES A PLAN FOR THE RESTORATION OF ORDER

- The Biblical plan is clear, simple, and—despised by most.
- The basis of a sound society is men who are rightly related under the rule of Jesus Christ.
 - 1 Corinthians 11:3 – **the head of every man is Christ**
 - 1 Corinthians 11:4 – If a man has *any* spiritual activity that *overshadows* or *ignores* Christ, then that man **dishonoreth his head**.

- 1 Corinthians 11:7 – for a man to cover *the head* is unconscionable because that head is Christ, who is **the image and glory of God** (compare Heb. 1:3).
- Any society that does not begin with *men rightly related to God* will be a society destined for ruin.
- Because *freedom* cannot exist without *self-control*, all societies that abandon Christ as *Head* will eventually be under dictatorship. This is why democracy has always arisen from and only thrived within Christian societies.
- Healthy society requires women who will live as *the glory of men* just as men reflect *the glory of Christ*.
 - 1 Corinthians 11:5 – a woman’s **head** is a reference to her *authority*. A woman is under authority just like a man. A woman is not to have an *authority* which is **uncovered**. That is, she should not put herself under the authority of an unsaved man who has not placed Himself under the authority of Christ. Further, the woman should not *go rogue* and ignore the authority of her Christ-honoring husband. To do so would **be a shame** (v. 6).
 - 1 Corinthians 11:10 – this is a cryptic phrase, likely a reference to the **sons of God** (i.e.: fallen angels) who **saw the daughters of men...and they took wives** (Gen. 6:2). The verse serves as a reminder that total havoc can be wrought when *men are not under the authority of Christ* and *women are not looking for that kind of man*.
- You will not find a single instance in history when men conformed to the Biblical mandate to submit themselves to the Lord, and when women conformed to the Biblical pattern for submission to godly men, that resulted in poverty, crime, dictatorship, and ruin. In fact, these kinds of societies have always been a blessing for personal liberties, opportunities, and wellbeing.

THE BENEFIT OF RECOGNIZING THE “DOCTRINE OF BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

- Recognizing this doctrine enables us to leave *fairy tale* relationships in the *fairy tales*. The Biblical truth: *all relationships are marred by the curse of sin*.
- Recognizing this doctrine enables us to understand necessary adjustments in normal relations in order to bring about social order (and thus peace and prosperity).
 - Because of the curse, some level of order is required.
 - God’s order, as revealed in Scripture, has always proven to be the only remedy to the brokenness brought into society.