

Appendix study “B”: The condition of man: In/of the world vs. in/through Christ.

We know the truth in 1 John 4:8, 16 – God is Love. However, it is important for us seek to properly represent God to the world as He fully describes Himself in the whole of scriptures. As we recall from our Study Series 1, 2a and 2b: He is a Perfect, Pure, Righteous Holy God, therefore His love comes from His character, and is a Holy Love. Before sin, Adam/Eve were in a relationship where they could experience the glorious Holy Love of God. There was no sin, there was no need for them to experience anything other than the Love of God. However, once sin entered the world, it becomes very important to rightly discern the scriptures and understand the condition of a sinful man before a Holy God, and how can man now experience a relationship abiding fully in God’s love?

In / of the world:

Rom. 5:12 “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—” (ESV)

Psa. 51:5 “...I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.” (NIV)

Rom. 3:10-18 “There is none righteous, no not one; none who seeks God there is none who does good...the throat is an open tomb... tongues constantly speaking lies...venom on their lips...mouth is full of cursing and bitterness...their feet are quick to shed blood...destruction and misery are in their ways...they have no fear of God.

Rom. 8:8 “...those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

Deut. 25:16-19 “...all who behave unrighteously are an abomination to the Lord your God.”

Prov. 3:32 “for the sinful person is an abomination to the Lord”

Prov. 15:26 “The thoughts of the sinner are an abomination to the Lord”

Prov. 21:27 “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination...”

Psa. 5:5 “You hate all who do evil.” (ESV)

Jam. 4:4 “...do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

Eph. 2:12 “...without Christ...having no hope and without God in the world.”

John 3:36 “...he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

In / through Christ:

Eph. 2:4-7 “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses and sins, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Eph. 2:11-13 “Therefore remember that you once Gentiles in the flesh...that at that time you were without Christ...having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who were once for off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

Eph. 3:3-6 “How that by revelation He has made known to me the mystery...that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body...in Christ...”

Gal. 3:13-14 Paul is here writing to the Christian believers in the churches in Galatia. Let us keep these facts in mind as we hear these verses. “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law... that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus...”

2 Cor. 5:18-20 “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself...Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

Rom. 8:38-39 Paul here at the start of Romans addresses who he is writing this to, and says in Chpt. 1:7 “To all, who are in Rome the beloved of God, called to be saints (or Christians). Other important factual information to remember is that Paul never planted this church, so he takes nothing for granted for what they may or may not know, and starts from the beginning with these Christians.

He had just finished explaining sin, law, and the battle in the believer in Chapter 7 and now in Chapter 8 he starts with the glorious victory that we as believers have in Christ, and in vs. 1 he writes:

- **(Read)** Rom. 8:1 “...now no condemnation to eternal death to those in Christ Jesus...”

Then he continues on through God’s promised commitment to us, and the security of salvation of all believers thru to glorification in Rom. 8:29-30:

- “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.”

And then the Holy Spirit inspires him to wrap all of these things up for us in this incredible enveloping blanket of love starting in Rom. 8:31:

- “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”
- And then the Holy Spirit wants His children to understand the depth and fullness of this incredible love He bestows on all those who believe in Christ, and ends the passage with the following in Rom. 8:38-39:
 - “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

The following verses shed some more light on the “fullness” of God’s love bestowed upon all those who believe in/through Christ:

Jesus said in John 14:21, “He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

Continuing in vs. 23-24, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words, and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.” Very powerful: clear!

Then Jesus goes on to tell us in John chapter 15 how He is the Vine, and how we do not have life nor produce fruit unless we abide in the Vine, and being outside, or not in the Vine, would also mean we would not receive this full expression of God’s love, as everything comes by being in the vine, which is being in Christ. Remember what the previous verses said, “If you love Me you will keep My commandments, and He who loves Me will be loved by My Father.” God is Holy and Pure and Righteous, and when we are cleansed of our sin by the Son, and put on His righteousness, then in/through Christ are able to come the Father’s full love and blessings.

John 15:9 and 10 sum this up, “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in my love.”

It is important to understand that abiding means to stay / fix / plant roots. Jesus said there is a place to be in His and His Father’s love, but you can also not abide and clearly not be in Their love, but under His wrath (John 3:36).

** For some homework I ask that everyone read John Chapters 14-17. Remembering to critically do all your reading in the Bible looking for the Audience Relevance, as this is crucial for proper interpretation and understanding of Scripture. Look and understand when a passage is speaking to or for the apostles, or when it is referring to future believers (us), as it is in John 17 starting in verse 20. It is very good to get used to starting to read your Bible several verses before the passage you are studying, as well as to read several verses after the passage, in order for you to get a clearer context within that part of the Bible you are reading, as well as to understand the audience to whom the speaker/writer is speaking to, who is speaking, and for what purpose/reason is he specifically speaking to them about.

Diagram: “C” - Page 1 – 29 Summary:

Comprehensive Death: sin-death, physical, eternal - the promise and the results of Gen 2 &3

-- The “day” Adam/Eve ate– God promised they would “die” – they did eat, and:

1) “That day” they experienced sin-death and were condemned to physically die “that day” when God would come in the cool of the evening, which would have been the portal into the spiritual realm under condemnation of sin in eternal death.

2) “That day” God instituted the substitutionary sacrificial system by killing an animal and clothing them, that animal died their “penal” death, thereby covering/atoning (provisionally forgiving) their sin until one would come in the future to pay/remove it. They did die with that animal “that day,” but their substitute spared them/mankind from immediate “physical” and “eternal” death.


-- Adam was originally created from the dust “outside” of the Garden. Now, put out of the Garden with “no access to the Tree of Life,” they/mankind would now eventually turn back into dust as the rest of creation. They were spared immediate physical death and condemnation in eternal death by the substitute of that animal and would now live out their allotted days on earth until they would later die a natural death.

-- Christ came to pay the wages & penalty of sin and overcome death & its power:

Unbelief/die in sins

Believe/cleansed from all sin

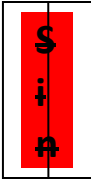
God **S**in



In sin-death under the condemnation to eternal death. Destined to physically die, which then would seal man into the condemnation of eternal death without Christ's propitiating sacrifice

Christ's physical death/blood: paid/removed

God Man **S**in



The wages of sin condemning man to eternal death was **paid for/removed** by the death/burial/resurrection of Christ. Physical death lost its power/sting to doom man to Sheol/Hades and then in eternal death the time of the resurrection. It is now the believer's friend, as it is the gateway into the spiritual realm to spend eternity with God.

