

THE DILEMMA OF HUMANITY

1 How does the Bible reveal the dilemma of humanity?

JEREMIAH 13:23 “Can the _____ change his _____ or the _____ its _____? Then may you also do _____ who are _____ to do _____.”

JOB 14:4 “Who can bring a _____ out of an _____? No one!”

We are all naturally unclean generating a dilemma for humanity. Adam's ingrained nature has incapacitated us, making it impossible to break this cycle of corrupt habits and bad behavior on our own. We are naturally enemies of good and right.

2 How does the Bible describe human nature?

PSALM 14:3 “They have _____ turned aside, they have _____ become _____; there is _____ who does _____, no, not _____.”

Someone once asked the question, “Why do bad things happen to good people?” The irony here is the supposition that there are “good people.” This topic is often misunderstood because many believe that behavior is a replacement for character. Even if you are or live near the nicest neighbor, his nature, like yours, is still corrupt.

3 What disqualifies us from being inherently righteousness?

ISAIAH 64:6 “But we are _____ like an _____ thing, and all our righteousnesses are like _____ rags; we all _____ as a leaf, and our _____, like the wind, have taken us away.”

Because Adam is the father of humanity, his nature disqualifies us from any personal righteousness. None are clean. Our best efforts to correct our fallen condition will fail because we are sinners by inheritance.

In lesson #2, Jesus, the Way Out, we learned the following:

- Through Adam's choice sin was transferred to humanity. (Romans 5:12)
- Because of Adam all are subject to death. (1 Corinthians 15:22)
- Adam's nature caused all to fall short of God's glory. (Romans 3:23)
- The penalty of a fallen nature is death. (Romans 6:23)
- The sin nature dominates us. (Romans 7:17)

4 How did the apostle Paul describe the dominant “sin-nature?”

ROMANS 7:15 “For what I am doing, I do not _____. For what I _____ to do, that I do not _____; but what I _____, that I _____.”

Paul made it clear that the struggles against our natural tendencies are futile unless we get help from a power greater than ourselves.

5 To what did the apostle Paul contribute his behavior?

ROMANS 7:18 “For I know that ____ me (that is, in my _____) nothing _____ dwells; for to _____ is present with me, but _____ to _____ what is _____ I do not _____.”

When the apostle Paul searched his mind, his body, his abilities, even his deepest desire, he could not find anything within himself capable of doing right. Many religions falsely teach to look within yourself and find all you need to become a good person. Any such religion is hostile to Christ's teachings.

6 To where does the Bible assign responsible for our condition?

ROMANS 7:20 “Now if I _____ what I will _____ to do, it is no longer _____ who do it, but _____ that dwells _____ me.”

Notice how the Bible teaches it is “sin” that “dwells in” us producing bad behavior; not our bad behavior producing the sin in us. Likewise, our fallen nature is not created by bad behavior; bad behavior is the result of our fallen nature.

7 Notice what is not responsible for sin.

ROMANS 7:14 “For we know that the _____ is _____, but I am _____, _____ under sin.”

God's law is not the problem because it is spiritual. Romans 7:12 reveals, “Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.” The issue is not with God's law but with humanity. We are carnal by nature. God's law reveals our condition in order to show us our need of Jesus.

8 What role does the law of God play in relation to sin?

ROMANS 7:7 “What shall we say then? Is the _____ sin? Certainly _____! On the contrary, I would not have _____ sin except through the _____. For I would not have known _____ unless the law had said, ‘You shall not _____.’”

For example, covetousness, the tenth commandment, simply identifies the violation. If someone gets stopped for speeding, the issue is not the speed limit but the violator. The law of God defines the particular sin our fallen nature violates and reminds us of our need for a Savior.

THE CHANGE THAT JESUS OFFERS

9 How does the Scriptures describe Jesus' antidote for sin?

JOHN 1:29 “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The _____ of God who _____ away the _____ of the world!’”

The “sin of the world” is not a particular sin committed by the world. It is the sin that through Adam has affected the entire world and the sin for which Jesus lived and died.

10 What does the Bible identify as our greatest need?

JOHN 3:16 “For God so _____ the _____ that He _____ His only begotten _____, that whoever _____ in Him should not _____ but have _____ life.”

Jesus is the greatest need of the world. The sin nature of Adam can only be remedied by the spotless nature of Christ.

11 When we accept Jesus what does He guarantee?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:49 “And as we have borne the _____ of the man of _____, we shall _____ bear the _____ of the _____.”

When we receive Jesus as our Savior, our fallen nature of Adam is changed to resemble His.

12 What kind of change is expected when we receive Christ?

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in _____, he is a _____ creation; _____ things have _____ away; behold, all things have become _____.”

When we accept Christ, He transforms us from the old sin nature of Adam to His righteous nature. Jesus completely obliterates our past and everything connected to it. All the things done and who we were is now a thing of the past.

13 How does Jesus accomplish such a drastic change in us?

1 JOHN 1:9 “If we _____ our _____, He is _____ and just to _____ us our sins and to _____ us from all _____.”

Confession is not just the admittance of wrong; it's the genuine desire to turn from sin and live righteously. The power to live the new life comes only from Jesus. “Cleansing us from all unrighteousness” means our “wages of sin” are paid through the death of Jesus. The act of forgiveness and cleansing is called Justification. Justification is possible because Jesus satisfied the debt that we could not pay. He died our death, that we, through His power can live His life.

14 According to the Bible what cost do we pay to be justified?

ROMANS 3:24 “Being justified _____ by His _____ through the _____ that is in _____ Jesus.”

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 “For by _____ you have been _____ through _____, and that not of _____; it is the _____ of _____, (9) not of _____, lest anyone should _____.”

The means by which we are justified--made right with God--is the shed blood and undeserved grace of Jesus. Justification has nothing to do with our ability; it has everything to do with our availability. If we make ourselves available to Jesus, He will deliver us from sin and its penalty. The apostle Paul wrote of this transaction, "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins." Ephesians 2:1 (NKJV)

15 When did Jesus make provision for our deliverance from sin?

ROMANS 5:6-8 "For when we were still _____ strength, in due time Christ _____ for the _____. (7) For _____ for a _____ man will one ____; yet perhaps for a _____ man someone would even _____ to die. (8) But God _____ His own love _____ us, in that while we were _____, Christ _____ for us."

God did not wait until we had it all together; nor did He require us to clean ourselves up before we came to Him. God sent His Son to save us while we were still in the grips of sin. He saw the dominant power that Adam's sinful nature had over us and knew the only remedy was to give His life for us.

16 How does the Bible describe the sacrifice of redemption?

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 "For He made Him who knew no _____ to be _____ for us, that _____ might _____ the _____ of _____ in _____."

A transaction called redemption is necessary for us to be saved from the penalty of sin. To redeem means to claim something back. Jesus would take on our nature, so we can take on His nature. He became like we are so that we, "Might become the righteousness of God in Him."

17 How does the Bible illustrate Jesus' willingness to save us?

ISAIAH 53:5 "But He was _____ for _____ transgressions, He was _____ for _____ iniquities; the _____ for our _____ was _____ Him, and by His _____ we are _____."

Jesus did not accomplish our salvation under personal protest. His love for us is so great His laying down of His life for us was a willing act. The prophet Isaiah describes Christ's willingness, "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before it's shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth." Isaiah 53:7 (NKJV)

18 What does the Bible describe as the reason for Jesus' death?

JOHN 15:13 "Greater _____ has no one than this, than to _____ one's _____ for his _____."

John wrote, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." John 3:17 (NKJV)

We remember John 3:16's focus on love, but John 3:17 makes it clear Jesus' mission is not to condemn us but to save us. Jesus did not come to condemn the world because, through Adam's sin, our world was already condemned. Condemned people need redemption. Reminding someone of their sin but without remedy is like a doctor telling you he cannot help you, your sickness is fatal. However, even before the world was being created, a plan was laid to accomplish man's redemption.

19 How does the Bible describe the redemption plan?

REVELATION 13:8 "... The _____ slain from the _____ of the _____."

GENESIS 3:15 "And I will put _____ between you and the _____, and between _____ seed and her Seed; He shall _____ your _____, and you shall bruise His _____."

The book of Revelation describes Jesus as the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Thus, even before the complete world existed, God had made provision for man's redemption. In the Garden of Eden God gave Adam and Eve the assurance of Christ victorious, humanity redeemed.

20 How does the Book of Hebrews summarize the transaction of salvation?

HEBREWS 2:14-15 "Inasmuch then as the _____ have partaken of _____ and _____, He Himself _____ shared in the _____, that through _____ He might _____ him who had the _____ of death, that is, the _____, (15) and _____ those who through _____ of _____ were all their _____ subject to _____."

Jesus took on this same flesh that humanity had, the flesh of Adam after the fall. Even through human flesh Jesus was victorious, defeating death and the devil. His death released us from the power of death and the fearful bondage it brings. Through His life we can be changed from who we were in Adam to who we can be in Christ. **Jesus is the Agent of Change.**

21 In light of redemption, what is our fullest potential in Christ?

JOHN 1:12 "But as many as _____ Him, to them He gave the _____ to become _____ of God, to those who _____ in His _____."

Christ great love for humanity is communicated in this timeless quote: "Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death, which was ours, that we might receive the life, which was his. 'With his stripes we are healed.'" - Desire of Ages, p. 25.2



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You may have heard the cliché, "The definition of insanity is, doing the same thing while expecting different results." As strange as that may sound, countless multitudes begin and end each day with a desire for something different, but fear of the unknown keeps them shackled to who they are. Why do so many settle for less, when they can have the best? Why do many remain imprisoned in the past, when freedom is just one choice away? Jesus came to transform lives; to reveal to mankind the character and lives they longed for.

When Jesus began His earthly ministry He outlined the parameters of His mission. He brought relief to the poor and outcast; healing to the brokenhearted; freedom to those bound by the chains of sin; a restorative vision to those whose eyes were dimmed by defeated drums; and equality to those exploited by the ills of society. Jesus resisted the status quo in favor of uplifting the downtrodden. His mission was extended to every economic demographic. All that came in contact with Jesus left His presence restored, renewed, and revived.

Jesus came to restore in man the image that had been lost as a result of sin. Jesus came to take away the sin that had separated Him from His creation. Jesus came to empower man to live a righteous life. Jesus came to equip us in every good work. None of the changes that we experience can be done in our own strength. **Jesus is the agent of change.**