



CORE STUDY #2

God Designed Us For Relationship

Passage: Genesis 2:4-3:24

Themes: Right Relationship w. God, Us, Others & Creation; Nature of Disobedience and self-autonomy

Summary: The perspective shifts in this passage from God's action in creation to humanity's reaction to God's single command. This passage describes the beginnings of humanity in right relationship with God, but also tells of the pattern of all people to rebel or disobey and our need for redemption.

Introductory Question:

- Discuss the differences in truth telling between reading a newspaper (ie. Vancouver Sun), watching a dramatic movie (ie. Lord of the Rings), listening to a pop song (ie. U2 – Magnificent) and reading a classic personification poem (ie. Emily Dickinson or Mother Goose).

Discussion Questions (selection to choose from):

1. Consider what type of literature is this passage? How does it compare or contrast to Chapter 1? (For example, do you read this story a historical, literalistic, mythically, scientifically, symbolically, as legend, as poetry?)
2. One of the major themes of this passage is that we were designed for four major relationships: with God, with creation, with others and with ourselves. How does Chapter 2 describe these four relationships? (hint: 2:7, 22; 2:25; 2:18-25; 2:7)
3. What is God's intention with giving this one command? (v. 2:16) Is it unreasonable or unfair? Is God withholding something from them? Explain? For what good is this command? How so?
4. How does the fall (sin) affect the four relationships we are in?
5. What do we learn about the nature of human beings?
6. What are the implications of Adam and Eve covering themselves with fig leaves?
7. If God is omnipotent, why does he ask "Where are you?" (v. 2:9)?
8. What do we learn about God's nature in how this story concludes? (i.e. v. 24 driving them out of Eden, v. 21 making them garments)

Response:

- We were designed for right-relationship in each of these four relationships. Is there one in which you struggle more in seeing God bringing wholeness to? (e.g. God bringing wholeness to your view of your body, or God's desire to redeem creation and our connection to the earth, etc.)