

SIN & SALVATION 2: THE NATURE OF SIN

1. Andrew started his talk off by reminding us that it is important to remember that God wants us to thrive when we think about sin. Do you think your understanding of sin lines up with the fact that God wants you to thrive?

“EVERYTHING THAT DOES NOT COME FROM FAITH IS SIN”

Romans 14.23b NIV

2. How does it challenge your understanding of sin if it is primarily about an internal distance between you and God, instead of sin primarily being about doing or thinking something ‘wrong’?

“NOW THE SERPENT WAS MORE CRAFTY THAN ANY OF THE WILD ANIMALS THE LORD GOD HAD MADE. HE SAID TO THE WOMAN, “DID GOD REALLY SAY, ‘YOU MUST NOT EAT FROM ANY TREE IN THE GARDEN?’”

²THE WOMAN SAID TO THE SERPENT, “WE MAY EAT FRUIT FROM THE TREES IN THE GARDEN, ³BUT GOD DID SAY, ‘YOU MUST NOT EAT FRUIT FROM THE TREE THAT IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GARDEN, AND YOU MUST NOT TOUCH IT, OR YOU WILL DIE.’”

⁴“YOU WILL NOT CERTAINLY DIE,” THE SERPENT SAID TO THE WOMAN. ⁵“FOR GOD KNOWS THAT WHEN YOU EAT FROM IT YOUR EYES WILL BE OPENED, AND YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL.”

⁶WHEN THE WOMAN SAW THAT THE FRUIT OF THE TREE WAS GOOD FOR FOOD AND PLEASING TO THE EYE, AND ALSO DESIRABLE FOR GAINING WISDOM, SHE TOOK SOME AND ATE IT. SHE ALSO GAVE SOME TO HER HUSBAND, WHO WAS WITH HER, AND HE ATE IT. ⁷THEN THE EYES OF BOTH OF THEM WERE OPENED, AND THEY REALIZED THEY WERE NAKED; SO THEY SEWED FIG LEAVES TOGETHER AND MADE COVERINGS FOR THEMSELVES.

⁸THEN THE MAN AND HIS WIFE HEARD THE SOUND OF THE LORD GOD AS HE WAS WALKING IN THE GARDEN IN THE COOL OF THE DAY, AND THEY HID FROM THE LORD GOD AMONG THE TREES OF THE GARDEN.⁹BUT THE LORD GOD CALLED TO THE MAN, “WHERE ARE YOU?”

¹⁰HE ANSWERED, “I HEARD YOU IN THE GARDEN, AND I WAS AFRAID BECAUSE I WAS NAKED; SO I HID.”

¹¹AND HE SAID, “WHO TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE NAKED? HAVE YOU EATEN FROM THE TREE THAT I COMMANDED YOU NOT TO EAT FROM?”

¹² THE MAN SAID, “THE WOMAN YOU PUT HERE WITH ME—SHE GAVE ME SOME FRUIT FROM THE TREE, AND I ATE IT.”

¹³ THEN THE LORD GOD SAID TO THE WOMAN, “WHAT IS THIS YOU HAVE DONE?”
THE WOMAN SAID, “THE SERPENT DECEIVED ME, AND I ATE.”

Genesis 3.1-13 NIV

3. Read the above passage from Genesis 3 and allow God to highlight something to you and then ask Him why He has highlighted it – share this with you group.
4. Andrew imagined how the Genesis story could have been different if Adam and Eve had turned and talked to God when the serpent was lying to them. Do you find it easy to share with God when you're feeling disconnected from Him? If you don't, what tools could you apply to help you to do this?
5. Andrew encouraged us to ask God what the underlying reasons and beliefs are that underpin behaviour we don't think is God's best for us. Is this something you've done before? How do you feel about trying it?