



SUNDAY WORD
WORD FOR THE WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP-
CEBU

DEEPER SERIES



PART 1 reality check
HOW'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

As human beings, we are relational. As we would often say, **No Man is an Island**. It is so true. Relationship is important to every individual. God created family...for relationship. God gave us friends...for relationship. We also find our special someone ...for relationship. Why do people desire for relationship? Well, we were created by God to worship Him. Worship is not just singing as we would often define as Christians. But worship is simply relationship with God. Unfortunately, we often find satisfaction in relationship from other people rather than with God. Relationship is based on trust. . In marriage or friendship, we know how important TRUST is. Without TRUST, there can never be TRUE relationship. Without trust, marriage won't last.

5 Realities of Broken Relationship with God:

COVER-UP

Sin is often defined as an immoral act against the divine law. But sin is simply a broken agreement with God. Adam had an agreement with God not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil and he broke it by tolerating Eve and then eating it. Thus, sin is a broken relationship with God. After sin, there is always a cover-up. Their eyes were ripped open to the awfulness of what they had done and they were ashamed. Their consciences were laid bare and they felt something God never intended for them to feel. So, what did they do? They tried to cover it up. They took pieces of God's creation and tried to fabricate something to cover up their shame. Our society has done a pretty good job of trying to justify the wrongdoing. Justifying our sin is probably our most used fig leaf. And it doesn't cover up a thing. Few leaves couldn't hide their sin from God Almighty—the One who created them. It is silly to think such pitiful little justifications will cover up our sin and hide it from God.

Do we think we'll convince Him it wasn't sin? Anytime we sin, we try to cover it up. And it's always as ineffective as Adam and Eve's fig leaves. We're still naked and ashamed in our sin. That is certain. It is also a certainty that when we broke

CONVICTION

God is so amazing in the way He deals with us. He knows that we are but a vapor. He knows that we fade and wither like the grass. But, look how patient He is with us. Look how patient He was with Adam. He was patient enough that He asked Him a question. Now, remember that God knows everything. He always has and He always will.

God was watching as the serpent was tempting Eve. He was watching as she took of the fruit. He was watching as she took it to Adam. And He was watching as Adam ate it too. He watched them sewing leaves together in a panic. And He saw them hide in the bushes. Since He saw all that, why did He ask Adam where he was? For the same reason He asks us questions when we sin. He doesn't ask seeking information. God seeks confession from us when He asks us. He asked Adam three questions. With each one came more and more conviction. And with each one, Adam had the opportunity to confess and repent. God brings His conviction in order that we will confess of our sin and repent from it.

CULPABILITY (RESPONSIBILITY)

Someone is always responsible, but no one wants to take the blame. Look at it closer: "It was the woman YOU gave me who gave me." So who was he blaming it on? On the surface, he was blaming Eve. But in reality, he was blaming God. At least Eve had enough sense to blame her sin on the serpent or satan. How often do we blame God for our sin? "Well, I blew up and lost my temper because that's just the way I am." "If God didn't allow this temptation, I won't fall to it. If God blesses me financially, I won't be working abroad and commit adultery." That's no better than the person who practices homosexual behavior blaming it on his genetics.

All of us are culpable or responsible for our own sin just as Adam, Eve, and the serpent are responsible of each sin. When we choose the wrong path, when we choose not to take the escape from temptation that God provides us, sin lies at our door. In other words, our sin is OUR FAULT. **It's not God's fault. It's not the devil's fault. It's not anybody else's fault but our own.**

CURSE

When God told Adam not to take of the fruit, He made him a promise. He said that if you eat of it, you shall surely die. The curse was laid out pretty clear. Actions have consequences and the consequence of violating God's command was death. Romans 6:23 - "" If you commit the very smallest act of sin you can possibly think of, you deserve to die. Did Adam and Eve immediately die after eating the fruit? YES! The first death that Adam and Eve experienced is SPIRITUAL death (broken relationship with God). Adam and Eve were separated from God. Second death that we will experience is the PHYSICAL death. All of us will die. And the last kind of death that we could experience is ETERNAL death in hell.

CURE

If you look at the curse as a courtroom, God promised a Savior in the middle of sentencing. It was a veiled promise. Adam and Eve didn't fully understand it. But somehow they knew that their salvation from sin would come from Eve's seed. That's what Satan thought too. That's why he worked so hard to destroy Cain and Abel. But of course that wasn't the seed God was pointing to. God was pointing to the seed of the woman—the One born to a woman without the seed of a man. He was pointing to His only begotten Son—Jesus Christ.

JESUS would be the One to crush Satan's head, even as Satan bruised His heel on the cross of Calvary. As God was laying out the CURSE, He also laid out the CURE. He graciously previewed His plan for a Savior. A Savior who would pay the wages of sin. And by paying the wages of sin would be the gift of God. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." We all sinned. There is no escaping that fact.

But how you react to the sin in your life will tell you whether you have received the cure or whether you're still under the curse. Do you cover your sin up or do you confess it? Are you convicted by the sin in your life or are you too busy dodging God's questions? Do you accept culpability and responsibility for your sin or are you always trying to pass the buck and blame it on something or someone else? Have you accepted the cure for your sin by confessing it to God and repenting before Him? Make sure you've accepted His cure this morning.



1. What do you feel about sin?
 2. How is your relationship with Jesus today?
 3. How does sin affect your personal relationship with Jesus?
- Pray for each other in your group.**