

## The Sin of Man – Part VII

Most of us here today are old-timers; so I don't need to dwell on this little quick review that I tend to do each time. Remember, Holiness of God, plus sin of man yields to reality of Hell. If we add the Cross of Christ, it yields the reality of Heaven. So this series really to me has four foundational reasons for existing. There's a strong testimonial component as you have detected already. And in the admonition of Paul, I believe, therefore I speak. The second, to a degree, is what I wish I had been taught early after getting saved. It would have saved me a lot of time from bouncing around trying to piece things together if I'd had something like this presented to me. Thirdly, it's to prepare us as Christians to give a defense for the hope that is within us. And fourthly to facilitate our accessing the abundant life that Christ died to purchase for us. So, next poster.

Remember we began with looking at Genesis 1:1; how that verse alone sets God apart as other than anything in all of existence; the only uncreated thing and the only self determined thing in all of existence. We receive that revelation to begin to get a revelation of how God is Holy. He is simply "other than." He can't be described or captured by any frame of reference determined by man. He is simply "other than"; and this "other than" One is known by revealing Himself to us as an expression of His love. He is perfectly pure and holy also means anything called holy by the Holy One. So remember, God alone is Holy, He is "other than". We're indwelt by the perfect Holy Spirit of God, so in that sense, we are holy. The Holy One says you are holy, so we're called holy by the Holy One while simultaneously being told to become holy to be transformed by the renewing of your mind. So once you grasp these understandings of the meaning of holy, you can grasp how those various Scriptures fit into perfect combination.

The foundational revelation that flows out of His Holiness is what is the only proper heart response of man. It's the fear of the Lord. It's to operate in awe and reverence of this God Who is other than. Then when we begin to approach God that way, we let God tell us what sin is rather than having us try to determine what sin is and God looks at sin through these four frames of reference. We define truth as being what God is and how God views everything else. So anything contrary to that is sin. He tells us without faith, it's impossible to please God, so at every moment, every thought, we're either walking by faith in this other than God or walking by unbelief in that Holy God of Genesis 1:1. Obey Me. If you love Me, you'll obey Me. Obedience. What could we possibly do as finite created beings other than obey this other than God Who is revealing Himself to us. If we don't do that, we are in rebellion. We have all sorts of gentle words to express that, but it is rebellion. And then in final frame of reference, either God is the judge or I am the judge. It's one of the two with every thought that we have. So we began to pound away last time at that last principle to look at judgment—our judgment of God. We walked through the testimonial aspect, some categories of non-Christians such as atheists, agnostics, and universalists and then began to look at ourselves in the mirror of the Word of God, to understand how we continue to judge God.

In a prior talk, I mentioned laziness. Laziness is to be content with things as they are - the status quo. But the Word of God tells us there are unholy elements in every situation that need to be dealt with. So when we are lazy spiritually, we judge that there is nothing about God that would compel me to seek Him to change this present status quo. I judge that the status quo is more worthy of my clinging to it through my lukewarmness than God is worthy of my clinging to Him by seeking His face. Fear. Remember, we talked about fear several times because it's so prevalent in human beings. I'm not talking about the fear of the Lord, that's the only legitimate fear, I'm talking about all other fears. Because when I fear something other than God, I am simultaneously judging God as uncaring because I

judge if He cared, He would have prevented that which I am now fearing. If I judge that He cares enough, then I have to judge that He's not powerful enough to express that caring to deliver me from that which I'm fearing. If I judge that He cares enough and He's powerful enough, then I have to judge that He's not faithful enough to deliver me from that which I'm fearing. Or, if I judge that He cares enough, He's powerful enough, and He is faithful enough, He must not know enough to see that I need deliverance from this particular situation. The point is that the one who fears anything other than God, is at that moment judging God to be uncaring, unfaithful, unknowing or impotent and weak. You can't fear anything other than God without judging God to be inadequate. The only thing you can fear is that which is threatening you here in the physical realm and God has already told you to set your eyes on the things above, not on the things below and don't fear the one who can kill the body, but fear the One Who can destroy both soul and body in Hell. In other words, fear only Him.

Honoring God. Romans 1:21 – “For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God.” So as Christians, remember, the question is not do we know God? We do. The question is not, do we honor Him? We do. We're gathered together today in His name because we are honoring Him. The question for us is, do we honor Him as God? Big difference between honoring Him and honoring Him as God. We have a tendency to judge how much honor we should give Him, to judge how much honor He is worth and to judge how much honor with which he should be satisfied. But the truth is if we withhold anything from God of our time, our energy, our gifts, or our possessions, then at that moment we are judging God to have lied when he wrote in Psalms 24:1, “The Earth is mine and the fullness thereof including all that dwell therein.” Well, what does that leave out that we should have and regard as our own and not God's. Because the truth, of course, is we are simply stewards of everything we have including our time. We don't own anything in a true sense, God owns everything and we are simply stewards here. So I hope we're beginning to see a common thread that all human beings judge God. That's simply the fallen nature of man. In fact, that is the fallen nature of man and that is the sin nature. When man looks at self and man looks at God and man decides that he can do this thing, he can determine this thing, he can know what truth is, pronounce what truth is and pronounce what God is, or pronounce what God must become or must do, that is the fallen nature of man.

It goes back to Adam and Eve. You remember Genesis 3:4-5 – the serpent said to the woman, “You surely shall not die if you eat this forbidden fruit; for God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God knowing good and evil.” In other words, autonomous, self determined, outside the position of being accountable to a Holy God. Now we call that disobedience; but disobedience is too gentle a word. The disobedience on the part of Adam and Eve flowed out of something even more foundational—the judging of God. Now how did Adam and Eve judge God? Well, they judged that God had lied about death surely following if they ate the forbidden fruit. They judged that God's heart was not operating in their best interest because God was withholding something desirable and of great value from them. Thus, they judged God as deceitful, unloving, uncaring, and as selfish and not operating in their best interest. So it is disobedience; but that's not the root of it. The root of it is for them to listen to the two choices and not just make the wrong choice, but to determine they could make that choice. Self determination. Self looked at self, self looked at God and self said I can determine this thing better than God determines what I should have and how I should have it at any particular moment. I trust myself to operate in my best interest more than I trust God to operate in my best interest. I am the real judge because I have pronounced myself so, not God as judge.

Now that's what God was addressing in Genesis 3:9 – and remember you've heard others say it and I say it because we need to be reminded of it – when an omniscient Being asks a created being a question, it's not so the omniscient Being can gather more data with which to upgrade the quality of His analysis,

interpretation, and decision making. When an omniscient Being asks a question, that question is so the finite being can receive the revelation of the answer to the question. So what question did God ask? God said to the man, "Where are you?" And there is a deeper meaning than just hiding behind the bush. The deeper meaning of the man is to say the following, "I have judged You, the most high God as having judgments inferior to mine." That's where I am, operating in self determination, not by God's declaration but my own assessment and my own declaration that I can do this thing. I can look at God, look at myself, and look at other options and I can choose what is in my best interest. I have judged the most high God. I have pronounced myself as self determined. And it's been the same ever since. That's not just the original sin, that's the origin of sin. That is the sin nature; for man's heart to position himself to determine by himself that he can be a better judge than God of what he should do, what he should be, and how he should become it. Thus, all men judge God.

The atheist judges that God is not. The agnostic judges that if God is, He's too impotent to reveal Himself to me. The universalist judges that God is, but then judges by fiat, by pronouncement what God must be and what God must do, rather than coming to God to let that Holy other than God declare what He is and what He will do. Now the Christians have many variants of that theme; but the common theme is disobedience, such a gentle word. But all disobedience is really judging God. And judging ourselves to be better equipped to judge every moment of our thought life, what thoughts we should be entertaining, rather than entertaining the mind of Christ. I will judge what I should be, what I should have. I will judge if God's power is adequate, if His love is adequate, if His faithfulness is adequate, if His knowledge is adequate, and if His righteousness is adequate. If God would only do this, then I would know He loves me. That's to judge that God has not declared enough in His word, His love to you, you see. So you can't have thoughts like that; you can't have a self condemnation thought without declaring what Jesus did on the Cross was inadequate to pay for my sins. I'm a better judge of my condemnation than God is because God has called me clean by the blood of Jesus, but I pronounce I'm still unclean and thus, I dwell in self condemnation. Self condemnation is nothing more than pride because it's self determining what its present status is before a Holy God. Self can't do that; only God can do that.

So the common theme for Christians and non-Christians is we all judge God. Now simply put, the word for that is pride. Pride is self worship. Pride pronounces what truth is rather than coming to the One Who is truth, to the source of truth, to let that Holy God of Genesis 1:1 tell you what truth is; to tell you what He is and how He views reality. Pride says, no, I can do this thing. I can determine what truth is. I can determine that God is not. I can determine that God is too impotent to reveal Himself to me. I can determine when God has done enough to reach the threshold of defining His love for me. I can do this thing. That's self worship. In Isaiah 42:8 – God, through the prophet, says "I will share my glory with no one." See, no flesh can glory before Me. If God said anything else, He would be a liar because He's the only thing Who is other than, Who is self determined, Who is uncreated. He's the only One worthy of glory and Hebrews 6:18 tells us He can't lie; so He can't lie and say you, man are worthy of glory.

Now humility is to come to the One Who is truth, Who is the source of truth, to receive that truth and simply to surrender to that truth. Humility agrees that God is, that God is the judge and that His judgments are just; they are perfect. Humility makes adjustments to come into alignment with God's judgments. That's called obedience. That's simply being God determined. Pride resists God and makes excuses while grumbling, while proclaiming what God's judgment should be, and which of God's judgments should apply to me. That's why pride is an anti-God state of mind because it declares itself as a better judge than God and thus, judges God, which is nothing more than overt rebellion. Is it any wonder that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble? Now you can define pride and

humility in many different ways. One way is to say pride is judging God. Humility is agreeing that God is the judge and then surrendering to that judgment. You can define one thing by the absence of another—like darkness, the absence of light; dryness, the absence of wet. So pride is that condition of the inner man in the absence of the fear of the Lord. Humility is that condition of the inner man in the presence of the fear of the Lord. That's why we begin with In the beginning, and then the Holiness of God, and then the fear of the Lord because if you're not walking in the fear of the Lord, you will be walking in self determination, which is what pride is; and is what, in fact, the sin nature is.

Now let's look at Job. Remember God asked Job those questions that we look at and kind of cringe in horror at how harsh God is? God basically said, "where were you when I created the Heavens and the Earth?" And then Job in chapter 40 says, "I spoke once, yes twice, but I will not speak again." But God basically by his behavior says the following nonverbally: Job, that's not the point. The point is not to subdue you into silence. The point is for you to receive the revelation that I wanted Adam to receive when I said where are you? So gird up your loins like a man; not just any man, but the most righteous man by the proclamation of God in Job 1:8. The best of men, but still a man...still a man, now gird up your loins and answer Me this question. And this is a question that should hang in the air for every Christian from then on. God says to the best of all men, will you really annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me that you may be justified, shown to be right? Paraphrased—who is the judge, Job? You or Me? Either I, God, am the judge including of you; or you, Job, are the judge of Me. That would make you the ultimate judge, it would make you your own god, would make you self determined, would make you autonomous, would make you unaccountable, and would position you to judge what in other places is called the most high God. So who is God, Job? You or Me? It's one or the other. And people say God doesn't answer; He asks questions. Oh, but He answers with a question. The question is in Genesis, "Where were you when I created the Heavens and the Earth?" You see Job, then I believe, received that revelation that at least part of his heart was still judging God. Well, how do I know? Because scattered in the book, he keeps saying, if I can just get an audience with God, I will argue my case before Him. I will argue my case before God. Can you imagine that? So we complain to God about how harsh He was with Job and God says look at all he went through and still he didn't get the point, he's in no position to argue his case before a Holy, other than God. That little corner of Job's heart was not yet operating in the fear of the Lord. And that's the revelation God wanted him to get. And Job got it because he said, "Before I heard but now I see." I see where I am; I see I'm behind the bush, proclaiming that I can judge God, that I am self determined. And Job received the revelation that Paul had received when he wrote in 1 Corinthians 4:4 – "I am aware of nothing in myself" (meaning sin). "I am aware of nothing in myself, but I am not by this acquitted, the one Who examines me is the Lord." There's only one judge and I'm not him.

So that's the revelation for all of us. All human beings are judging God from the time Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. All non-Christians are judging God. All Christians are judging God because that's what disobedience is. By our own fiat, we insist on remaining the judge in the area of our disobedience. You only have two choices. Surrender to God and his judgments which is humility and be God determined walking in the fear of the Lord; or disobey by judging God, which is pride, which is self proclaiming self to be self determined. I can do this thing. Now the tendency is to say, Buddy, that's a hard truth. Well it isn't really; but let's look at that response. You see the part of you that is focused on its hardness is your flesh. The part of you that is focused on its truth is your spirit. The Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword and splits soul from spirit. It's like when you're on a diet. If you don't ever feel hungry, you're probably not losing weight, remember? So if your flesh isn't complaining a little bit right now about the hardness of this truth, then your spirit is probably not

responding to the fact that it is truth. Because the flesh doesn't feel threatened. It complains when it feels threatened.

But as all things with God, let's remind ourselves of the beauty of how this works out because it is fuel for greater love. I went through this sequence before, but it is to remind us. Romans 8:28 – "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God to those who are called according to His purpose." So, we're Christians; we are called to His purpose. We love God, at least in our limited way and at least to some degree, we want to become one with God. We know that we should want no part of ourselves to remain outside of Himself. So here's how it works. Sin goes in—love comes out. That's God. We pray as David prayed. Psalms 19:12 – "Reveal to me my secret sins." God, as the Spirit of truth does that because He gives you the desire of your heart and if you desire to know your secret sins, He will reveal them...that you have been judging Him almost every moment of your life including since salvation.

You're not glad that's true, but it is true. And now that you know it's true, you can confess it, repent of it, be forgiven, cleansed of it and walk in the progression of Luke 7:47 – "He who is forgiven little loves little." So the one who walks in the deception that he is forgiven little will love little. Because he thinks it took a little Christ to save him a little to suffer for him a little in order to pay for his little sins. So when you have cold love, it's simply a reflection you don't know the magnitude of your sin. Because remember sin is not ever excused, it is forgiven and forgiven because it's paid for and not paid for by you. And all of a sudden that payment for your sin begins to magnify, not beyond what it is, but closer to what it is, closer than what you truly knew it to be.

The one that walks in the truth that he has judged God virtually every moment of his life, including since salvation will receive the progressive revelation of how much he is forgiven. He will know that it took the agape, unconditional love of God to pay that much for his multitude of sins. And that's the one who gets the growing revelation of the love of God. And you know Scripture—we know love by this. He laid down His life for us and all of a sudden what He did, as He laid down His life for us begins to grow in revelation. You then begin to grow in the awe of the price that He paid, to pay for your not few sins, not many sins, but countless sins including ever since salvation. So don't ever try to suppress a revelation of secret sin, including specifically the root of all sin, which is the human heart's positioning itself to judge God. Receive the revelation. Cry some tears over it and then let it work together for good by letting you see that the grace of God was many-fold times greater than you ever knew it to be. Because you will know that you are forgiven much and you will love much. You only need to look at the beginning. First verse in the Bible and how we fast forward it! In the beginning, God...not Buddy, not Rick, not David, not Larry. In the beginning God. You see when we begin there and receive the revelation of the Holiness of God out of Genesis 1:1, all spiritual progress thereafter, all fulfillment of your reason for having been created, is to simply let God be God and you be His creature. Let God be the judge of everything in your life instead of putting up a defense mechanism to shield yourself from the revelation of how you're continuing to judge Him. Because that's the battle for the souls of men to save them, it's the battle for the souls of men to purify them. To transform them by the renewing of their minds. To simply say, who's the judge...God or man? And the answer to that question is in the first verse of the Bible. In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth and then ask yourself, where was I when that occurred?

Now next time that I speak, next week, we'll begin to look at judgment because we should be seeing the revelation, our judging of God sets the stage for His judging of us. But if we don't receive the revelation of our judging of God, we will continue to judge God including judging His judgment of us, as to its

reality, as to its fairness, and as to its finality. Then we will judge Hell as to its reality, as to its fairness, as to its finality. And then we'll judge the Cross of Christ as to its necessity, as to its completeness, as to its magnitude and as to its power. Then we'll continue to fulfill what is so true for so many of us today. II Timothy 3:5 – by continuing to hold to a form of godliness while denying its power. You recall the definition of insanity. Doing the same thing over and over while expecting a different result the next time. So the insanity for us as Christians would be to continue to judge God while praying for His power to be manifest in our lives. As Paul would say, may it never be. So let our constant prayer for the next week be that of David in Psalms 19:12 – “Lord reveal to me my secret sins” including specifically the root of all sin which is for man to pronounce by his own fiat, I can do this thing. I can judge better than God; in fact, I can judge God.