

A Personal Relationship

by Neil Anderson

The true knowledge of God is available to the world through an intimate relationship with God in the flesh, Jesus Christ.

Scripture: Genesis 3:7, Genesis 4:1, John 1:14

Topics: "Personal Relationship", "Knowing God"

Description

Neil Anderson delves into the impact of the Fall on Adam and Eve's minds, highlighting how sin distorted their perception of reality and their relationship with God. Before the Fall, Adam and Eve knew God intimately, but sin severed that close connection, leading to a loss of true knowledge of God. Through John 1:14, Anderson emphasizes that in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, God offers humanity the opportunity to know Him personally and intimately, restoring the relational knowledge of God that was lost through sin.

Transcript

John 1:14

The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth

What effect did the Fall produce in Adam's mind? He and Eve lost their true perception of reality. We read in Genesis 3:7, 8, that they tried to hide from God. Doesn't that reveal a faulty understanding of who God is? How can you hide from God? After the Fall, Adam and Eve weren't thinking straight.

In essence, when Adam and Eve sinned, their minds were robbed of the true knowledge of God. In God's original design, knowledge was relational. Knowing someone implied an intimate personal relationship. You can see it in Genesis 4:1: "Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived" (KJV). Yet we don't generally equate a knowledge of someone with personal intimacy.

Before the Fall, Adam and Eve knew God, not sexually of course, but in the intimacy of a close, personal relationship which we associate with marriage. They knew God by being with God. When they sinned and were banished from the garden, Adam and Eve lost their relationship with God and the knowledge of God which was intrinsic to that relationship. And you and I inherited Adam and Eve's darkened mind. Before Christ, we knew something about God, but we didn't know God because we had no relationship with Him.

The necessity of being in relationship to God in order to know God comes into sharp focus in John's announcement: "The Word"-- logos in the Greek--"became flesh" (John 1:14). The word logos represented the highest form of philosophical knowledge. For the Greeks, saying that the logos became flesh was the same as saying that ultimate knowledge became personal and relational. God was announcing to the world through John: The true knowledge of God, which can only be discovered in an intimate relationship with God, is now available to the world through God in the flesh--Jesus Christ. In Christ we are able to know God personally, not just know about Him.

Prayer:

Lord, I thirst for deeper intimacy in my relationship with You. I want to know You more personally today.

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