

“Is perfection like the weather? Is constantly fine weather better than changing seasons? Where would we be without storms? Can we learn to sail without the wind? ... Does being wounded make us less perfect or more perfect?”
Max DePree, *Dear Zoe*

Notes



The Core

Core 1:

God is the holy, just, and gracious Creator of all things.

“How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.” (Psalm 36:7)

Grace is God’s free gift of salvation that is a gift that cannot be earned or achieved as a reward.

Grace is also God’s gift that invites us to come to him for strength.

God’s Touch and Breath

“Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” (Genesis 2:7)

God is Holy

“I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.” (Isaiah 43:15 ESV)

God is Just

“Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent—the Lord detests them both.” (Proverbs 17:15)

God is Gracious

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.” (Titus 2:11)

“He (Jesus) was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you.”
(1 Peter 1:20 ESV)

Instructions to Adam and Eve

And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”
(Genesis 2:15-17)

How does God react to Adam and Eve after they Sin?

1. God looks for them. He finds them. And He speaks to them!

Then 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. Then 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. But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:7-9)

2. He gives them a promise

So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” (Genesis 3:14-15)

What does this promise mean? It means that God has not given up on his plan for you and me after we sin!

3. He tells them the consequences of their sin.

To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” (Genesis 3:17-19)

4. He provides for them.

“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.” (Genesis 3:21)

5. He protects them.

And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. (Genesis 3:22-24)

“God knows that when you eat from it (the tree of knowledge of good and evil) your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil”. (Genesis 3:5)

He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. (Genesis 3:22-23)

God’s action of justice is not vindictive or punitive; it is protective, it is restoration. It all leads to salvation. It all leads to restoration.