

Scripture: Genesis 2:15 - 3:6
Singing: 94:1-4 – 164:1-4 – 12:1-4 – 179:2-4

As we reviewed our *glorious beginnings*

- Did you notice how our living space was *full of God's riches*? (Ps. 104:24)
- Did you reflect on how *perfect God made us*? (Eccl. 7:29)
Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright!
- Did you realize we were *invincible* unless we *willingly surrendered*?

THE GLORY OF OUR BEGINNING (3)

- I. The glory of our living space II. The glory of our being
III. The glory of our relationships

III. THE GLORY OF OUR RELATIONSHIP

- A. We humans have the gift of ability *to form personal relationships* with others
- B. God made us capable to have a ***personal relationship with Him*** (John 17:3)
1. the beauty of relationship is described as *eternal life* (John 17:3)
- C. This nature of this relationship between God and us
1. This relationship is called a *covenant* (Hosea 6:7)
 2. This covenant is defined by *specific requirements & promises*
 - a. God as Creator LORD set all the terms of this covenant (Gen. 2:16)
 - b. God's command has *permissive* and *prohibitive* clause (Gen. 2:16-17)
 - c. God entered this relationship with Adam as our head (Rom. 5:12)
 3. The basis for the relationship: *total trust in God and obedience to God*
 - a. the tree of knowledge of good and evil was the test
 - b. quality – joy – growth of relationship was dependent on **obedience**
 - promise of *life* upon obedience is implied in Genesis 2 but confirmed in Leviticus 18:5; Romans 10:5; Galatians 3:12
 - tree of life functioned like a *sacrament to the promise of life*
 4. Obedience/disobedience *would bring experiential knowledge of good/evil*

D. Gen. 3:1-6 records *heart-breaking story of man's divorce from God (fall)*

Take along considerations ...

A. For God to establish this covenant relationship with man was *not natural*

1. It was God's *condescending goodness to man*
2. The terms of the relationship were easy for a perfect Adam
3. Adam's rebellious choice is the most shocking act

B. What was God's answer upon our despicable act as human race?

1. He did not turn His back on us as we did to Him: Gen. 3:15; Ps. 103:10
 - a. God *so loved* that He send His only begotten Son into death
 - b. God *seeks in preaches bring glad tidings*: Acts 3:26
2. He promises life while we chose death (John 3:36)
 - a. do not listen to Satan's discrediting the Gospel
 - b. repentance is the first step toward reconciliation: Luke 17:3-4

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready waits to save you,
Full of pity, love and pow'r:
He is able, He is able,
He is willing, doubt no more.

Let not conscience make you linger,
Nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requires
Is to feel your need of Him:
This He gives you, this He gives you,
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

For further spiritual exercise ...

1. If God commands you to repent (Acts 2:38; 17:30), specify for yourself what He is commanding you to repent of in your thinking, acting, responding, feelings, habits, words, or motives.
2. Read Ps. 51 and 32 to see an example of how David repented before God.