

Theme: Adam's disobedience brought enmity between God and man, between Adam and Eve, and on through the whole of humanity. It has affected our ability to think clearly and to perceive God's work and ways properly. As we are transformed by the renewing of our minds, seeing more clearly the work of God in us and in the world, that enmity is often experienced powerfully and personally.

Background: Back to our series on the 2nd Adam to consider the consequences of our fallen nature.

Introduction: "What was I thinking?" Our reasoning isn't always clear. "It seemed like a good idea at the time." Our thinking has been affected by the fall.

- I. The Enmity of the Fall
 - A. Enmity with God
 1. Loss of relationship with God - Fear vs. Faith
 2. Loss of (original) righteousness
 - a. Knowledge of good and evil is not a "neutral" state
 - b. Making a claim of ethical autonomy (I decide!)
 - B. Enmity with the world
 1. The ground fights (sweat of your brow)
 2. Pain with the things we desire (childbirth)
 - C. Enmity with one another
 1. Between Adam and Eve
 2. Enmity throughout the human race (Genesis 3:15)
 - a. Between her "seed" and the serpent's - used of individuals and descendants
 - b. Between those who love God and those who love self

NOTE: Serpent's seed = those who practice sinning (1 John 3:8)

- II. The Experience of Enmity
 - A. Two brothers – Two offerings
 1. Abel's acceptable offering
 2. Cain's corrupted offering
 - a. Lack of faith? (Hebrews 11:4?)
 - b. A bloodless sacrifice? - *Minha* is a tribute or offering, not an atoning sacrifice
 - c. "some of the fruits" – not the 1st fruits or the best
 - B. The power of sin
 1. Cain's anger is not hidden from God
 2. "If you do right" – There is "knowledge" or conscience
 - C. Personal enmity (The root of enmity)
 1. Poor theology - Futile, depraved thinking (Romans 1:21)
 2. Corrupted behavior/action - Poor ethics and actions
- III. The Effects of Enmity
 - A. By accident or by design?
 1. REJECTING "In God's Image"
 2. EMBRACING "Have it your way"
 - a. We are "self-defining" and "self-designing"
 - b. In conflict with other self-defined/designed individuals
 - B. Basically good or bad to the bone?
 1. The mind at enmity with God REJECTS the idea that...
 - a. REJECTING "All have sinned" (Romans 3:10-12, 23; Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9)

2. With little or no need to restrain sinners, because...
 - a. EMBRACING "We are all basically good"
 1. We just need better education
 2. Your desires are all basically good
 3. Our hearts will tell us what is good and right
 4. No need to put our desires to death (Colossians 3)
 - b. Problems are from external sources, not internal
 1. It is a disorder or a disease
 2. There is no sin that must be addressed

APPLICATION: We need to speak in moral categories: righteousness, virtue, holiness.

- C. A Gentle End vs. Judgment
 1. REJECTING judgment
 - a. No judgment – Just gone
 - b. We don't deserve it (Matthew 13:24, 30; Hebrews 9:27)
 2. EMBRACING...the afterlife
 - a. A Christ-less afterlife
 1. 32% of atheists/agnostics in the US believe in life after death
 2. A happy place for everyone there

QUESTION: Would heaven without Christ be enough for you?

- b. Christ's heaven
 1. Revolves around the glory of God
 2. Christ's glory fills heaven

- IV. Conquering Enmity
 - A. The ongoing battle
 1. The "lines" continue
 - a. Seed of the serpent: Cain to Lamech and beyond
 - b. Seed of the woman: Seth to Enoch and beyond
 2. The enmity continues
 - B. The Conquering King
 1. Redeeming our bodies' nature
 2. Renewing our minds (Romans 12:2)