

# C. The multiple faces of Temptation, Sin and Judgement

## 1. Culturally-induced colour-blindness to Biblical categories

### 4.1 The effects of colour-blindness

- a. Not seeing → import meaning; Mis-seeing → misinterpret what is there)

## 2. Correcting colour-blindness – seeing through multi-coloured glasses

### 1.1 Multiple paradigms in Scripture; Dominant paradigms in different cultures

| Setting                  | Value              | Categories   | Human                     | God                 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Legal                    | Justice (Law)      | right/wrong; obedience/transgression; just/unjust; righteous/unrighteous; innocent/guilty; stand(justified)/condemned; reward/penalty            | Judge                     | Law-maker (Holy)    |
| Family (Filial)          | Name (Honour)      | honour/shame; restore/avenge; show/hide; face-to-face/turn-away; enter-in/cast-out; stand/laid-low; head-up/head-down; (blessing/curse)          | Head                      | Father & Son (Love) |
| Tribal / Nation          | Power              | life/death; refuge/destruction; for(with)/against; accept/reject; acknowledge/rebel; friend/enemy; stand/laid-low; favour/fear; (blessing/curse) | Ruler                     | Sovereign (Lord)    |
| Government (Royal Court) | Wisdom             | wise/foolish; fruitful/unfruitful; order/disorder prosperity/ruin; (knowledge, insight, understanding; effective, successful)                    | Sage                      | Wise (Creator)      |
| Marital / Imperial       | Covenant (Promise) | blessing/curse; faithfulness/unfaithfulness; loving-kindness/righteous-indignation(wrath); my-people/not-my-people                               | King / Bridegroom / Lover |                     |

### 1.2 Different cultures are sensitised to different categories

| Culture                           | Justice | Honour | Power | Wisdom | Covenant |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|-------|--------|----------|
| a. Western European               |         |        |       |        |          |
| b. Eastern Europe                 |         |        |       |        |          |
| c. Near & Middle East             |         |        |       |        |          |
| d. Central Asia & India           |         |        |       |        |          |
| e. The Far East & South-East Asia |         |        |       |        |          |
| f. Africa, Caribbean              |         |        |       |        |          |
| g. Central & South American       |         |        |       |        |          |
| h. North American Indian          |         |        |       |        |          |
| i. Pacific Islanders/Aborigines   |         |        |       |        |          |

### 1.3 Categories used in Genesis when describing temptation, sin & judgement

| Account                     | Passage         | Justice | Honour | Power | Wisdom | Covenant |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------|--------|-------|--------|----------|
| a. The creation of humanity | 1:26-27         |         |        |       |        |          |
| b. God's commands to Adam   | 2:9,15-17       |         |        |       |        |          |
| c. The creation of Eve      | 2:18,23-25      |         |        |       |        |          |
| d. The temptation (1)       | 3:1-4           |         |        |       |        |          |
| e. The temptation (2)       | 3:5-6           |         |        |       |        |          |
| f. The result of eating     | 3:7-10          |         |        |       |        |          |
| g. Sin in Noah's day        | 6:5-13          |         |        |       |        |          |
| h. God's commands to Noah   | 9:4-7           |         |        |       |        |          |
| i. God's covenant thru Noah | 8:21-22; 9:8-11 |         |        |       |        |          |
| j. Babel                    | 11:4-6          |         |        |       |        |          |

## 2. Temptation, Sin & Judgement: revealed largely in Biblical narrative

### 2.1 Temptation – a necessary reality for relationship *Gen 3:1-7; James 1*

- a. The possibility to choose against God is essential for real relationship, James 4:5  
so God upholds the possibility for temptation James 1:12
- b. The possibility of temptation will one day be removed, without jeopardising...
- c. The source of temptation as external to man (pre-history, 1 John 3:8) James 4:7
- d. The source of temptation as external to God('s character) James 1:13
- e. Temptation takes root in our hearts, which were made to desire...
- f. Temptation develops into "over-desire", "craving", "lust" James 1:14
- g. (Inordinate)Desire → Sin → Death James 1:15

### 2.2 God's judgement on the whole earth *Rom 8:20-22*

- a. The whole creation is subjected to *futility and corruption* but in *hope* Rom 8:20  
→ *we know there is something profoundly wrong!*

### 2.3 God's judgement of Hell – a justice issue?

- a. Biblical language: OT: Sheol; NT: Gehenna
- b. "everlasting destruction" 2 Thes 1:9
- c. "everlasting torment", "flaming...vengeance" Mark 9:47-48; 2 Thes 1:8; Rev 20:9-10,15
- d. 3 types of beings: *The Creator – His Creatures – the Image of the Creator*
- e. Hell as the place of *ongoing* rebellion and ongoing judgement Rev 16:8-11
- f. The presence of God in hell
- g. God's patience with and providence to all Matt 5:45; Rom 2:5

## 3 God's glory is revealed in his response to sin

### 3.1 Judgement brings God glory; Salvation brings God glory

### 3.2 God is free to reveal His glory by judgement or salvation

All will be silenced; All will see that all is by grace

## 4. Discussing Sin & Judgement

### 4.1 Sin

- a. Use the whole range of biblical categories to explain sin!
- b. Use your hearers' own experience of the destructiveness of sin (specific, experienced) to help them understand the general, not-yet-fully-experienced destructiveness of sin

### 4.2 Judgement

- a. Show that we *all* want judgement to be exercised
- b. Show that we are usually very sensitive to acts that wound *us*,  
but usually quite blind to *our* acts that damage others
- c. Pray that your hearers' will stop seeing the problem of God's judgement as being one "out there", but come to see that they are a profound part of the problem.
- d. Preach the greater love of God that deals with His great judgement