

Brokenness and Dependence

The essential foundation for releasing our masculinity

Victims or Agents?

We are truly victims of this fallen world but we are agents first and last.

Agents first:

“We are responsible *agents* for whether or not we trust God as good and, therefore, live to take care of ourselves or to glorify Him.” *Understanding Who You Are*

We live with a core terror

“The LORD God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’ He answered, ‘I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.’” Genesis 3:10

“To Adam he said, “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of 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.” Genesis 3:17a, 18-19a



Victims second:

“We are truly *victims* vulnerable to mistreatment that affects our view of ourselves and others, that strengthens our conviction that God is not good, and that further justifies our determination to take care of ourselves.” *Understanding Who You Are*



“She said, ‘I will go after my lovers, who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink.’ Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes; I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way. She will chase after her lovers but not catch them; she will look for them but not find them. Then she will say, ‘I will go back to my husband as at first, for then I was better off than now.’”

Hosea 2:5b-7

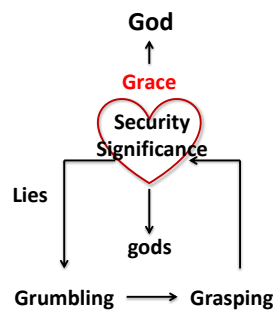
Agents last:

“We are *agents* responsible for the specific strategies we select in order to survive.”

Understanding Who You Are

“Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their Glory for worthless idols. Be appalled by this, O heavens and shudder with great horror,” declares the LORD. My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.” Jeremiah 2:11-13

Our greatest need at any time is for God’s grace and forgiveness:



Questions for discussion

Think of something you tend to avoid in life (maybe something with your wife, kids or work) due to some kind of fear of failure, conflict or a general sense of inadequacy. If you reflect on all this, what are you most afraid of? Try to be specific.

How does your fear influence the way you relate to God and that person?

How does your way of relating (avoidance, etc) reflect a doubt that God is good (sufficient to sustain you no matter what happens)?

What do you think is the impact of your avoidance on that person?

How do past wounds play into this?

How often do you come to God with your fears and sin, trusting he wants to forgive you and help you? Talk about a time when you did that. If you can't recall one, what do you think keeps you from coming to God in that kind of brokenness and trust?