

# RUNNING FROM THE WRONG PERSON

## No More Condemnation

**Thesis:** Sin entered our world through deception regarding the character of God. When Adam and Eve believed the lies Satan told them about their Creator, they ceased to trust Him and ventured into rebellion against Him. Immediately they sensed their guilt. But against the backdrop of the new belief that God was their enemy, they imagined that the shame they felt was from Him. They saw in God what they falsely believed about Him. This is the legacy of fear and insecurity all of us receive from the Fall. Jesus came into our world on a mission to reveal God's true character and persuade us of His non-condemning love. He demonstrated that God is our truest Friend and not our enemy. The restrictive, arbitrary, selfish, condemning picture of God that haunts our souls is untrue. If we run from God to escape our guilt and shame, we are running from the wrong person. His forgiveness is full and free.

**Genesis 3:1-11**— **1**Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" **2**And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; **3**but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" **4**Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. **5**For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **6**So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. **7**Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. **8**And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. **9**Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where *are* you?" **10**So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." **11**And He said, "Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

**Proverbs 28:1**—The wicked flee when no one pursues.

**Isaiah 59:2**—Your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you.

**Job 40:8**—Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?

**Psalms 50:21**—These things you have done, and I kept silent; you thought that I was altogether like you.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-6**—**3**But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **4**whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. . . **6**For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**NOTE:** Satan crafted three lies about God: (1) God is restrictive, (2) God is untrustworthy, and (3) God is self-centered and, therefore, does not love others.

**NOTE:** By the call, "Where are you?" God communicated that He still wanted them and loved them. By the question, "Who told you that you were naked?" God communicated that He was not standing toward them in an attitude of condemnation. By the question, "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" God pointed to their sin itself as the source of their feelings of shame, not His attitude.

**John 3:16-17**—**16**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **17**For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

**John 8:10-12**—**10**When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” **11**She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.” **12**Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

**Luke 7:47-48, NLT**—**47**I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.” **48**Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven.”

**Romans 5:20**—Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.

**Romans 8:1, 31-39**—**1**There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus... **31**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32**He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? **33**Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. **34**Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. **35**Who can separate us from the love of Christ?... **38**For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **39**nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**1 John 3:20**—If our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

**1 John 4:16-19**—**16**We have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. **17**Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. **18**There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. **19**We love Him because He first loved us.

**1 John 4:8**—God is love.

**Malachi 3:6**—I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed.

**James 1:17**—Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

**Hebrews 13:8**—Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

**NOTE:** See the whole story in Luke 7:36-50. Simon the Pharisee thought that if Jesus “knew” the guilty state of this woman, He would obviously reject and condemn her. Therefore, Simon concluded, since He does not *know* what a sinner she is, He must not be a prophet sent by God. He assumed that God condemns us for what He knows about us. But here’s the key to understanding God’s heart: He did know her sinfulness, in totality, and still He loved her without condemnation. Jesus revealed to Simon that, not only did He know this woman’s sin and still loved her, but He also knew Simon’s sin and still loved him. The more deeply we believe God’s love for us in spite of our sins, the greater will be our own passion to love Him and all others.

### **“Behold Your God”—Isaiah 40:9**

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All Scripture References are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.