

# **Wrestling / the Sovereignty of God & the Freedom of Relationship**

## **Introduction - Creation Required Risk for Love**

### **Genesis 1-3**

\* Review

With the background of the OT & NT scan, I want to now proceed to the creation story

Why?

Now that we have seen God OVER TIME ebbing and flowing IN RELATIONSHIP with His creation I want to turn to the place this gets established in the Story

We have been saying all along that God is the Creator over ALL

God is the One that brings order out of chaos

It is God who DECIDES how the Story works

God is the Sovereign One

These are His rules, not ours...so my goal is to understand:

1. what those rules are
2. what is behind His decision

If life is a massive chess game, it is God who decides which pieces exist and how they move and why

Today we have GRAVITY – one of the rules in the chess game – God's ultimate decision

We just looked at many of the some 250 examples of God changing His mind

250 images of God regretting, repenting, hoping but experiencing disappointment

God moving IN RELATIONSHIP with His Creation

If this exists throughout the Story and I have attempted to show that it does

Then surely we should see this right out of the gate in the beginning of creation

And just as importantly, we should see this BEFORE THE FALL

Why might this be important?

Because God's relational response in a sense has nothing to do with the fall

God has ALWAYS desired to be deeply connected with us and in the NOW

In fact, I want to show this morning that the Fall is EXPLAINED somewhat by this understanding

There are 20+ images of God as Creator interacting with creation in Genesis 1-2

When you look at them together, you get a much more relational sense

God shares more than existence

- Gen. 2:19

What specifically does God share in responsibility with Adam?

When God gives rule over to Adam, what is He also sharing?

His power & authority over creation

In a very real sense, in this single act God decides to leave certain important things in the hands of humanity

e.g. naming the animals

How much input does the text say that God gave to Adam in this process?

How much did God CHANGE of Adam's decisions?

There is no discussion in the text of God coercing Adam on certain names, or overriding Adam's decisions

Adam names them, and God goes with it...does every one agree?

NEVER does God intervene in the naming

NEVER does Adam appear to need even His advice

NEVER does it appear does God change anything he decides

### The Openness of God – pg 7

- Psalm 8

God crowns humanity with honor & rule & decision making over creation

Also notice what it says about God

What does it say about God when He brings the animals to Adam? What does that imply?

“to SEE what he would name them”

Implies He doesn’t know

God leaves space for human freedom, human choice, human reasoning

And NEVER does God call this individual act idolatrous

Isn’t that fascinating?

Why again might this bother us if this is true?

To us Less Control means less Sovereign

AND CHOOSING to be in the now of the relationship and thus CHOOSING to not know seems less Omniscient somehow

But Less DIRECT Control does not mean less sovereignty if God CHOOSES to have less control

And the same goes for being in the moment with His knowing

In fact, I would argue this makes God WAY MORE Sovereign and Omniscient

\* EXPLAIN

So God creates, and then He allows creation to change...and not by His control

In fact, God creates, says it is good, but there were YET things good to create, namely Eve...and this didn’t occur until ADAM was aware of it

Again, creation changes

Eve wasn’t there to begin with right? God creates, places Adam within...then Adam and God walk together and co-rule, Adam creating on his own as well, creation changing creation

Aspects of relationship are missing, Adam realizes it, God again creates

So God creates, God hands over some decisions or freedom of choice, God flows with them, creates within them, handing over certain decisions while still desiring limits within the freedom

And ALL OF THIS BEFORE THE FALL...read original design

Awww...now the sticky part

Where is the Tree? Why is it there?

God creates, hands over freedom of choice but places an UNNAVODABLE DECISION before them

### Sovereign Risk!

Not just risk, but Sovereignly decided risk

- Gen. 3:1

Striking the Satan doesn’t use the term “Lord God” – common to the rest of 2-4

Can see from this how separate from God he is

God is just the REMOTE CREATOR, not Yahweh the deeply personal relational God

Satan wants a dialogue about God’s words and decisions

What can you learn about God if anything from the Satan in his approach here?

Already we see:

- a) His words are open to discussion
- b) And thus open to question
- c) And thus open to being accepted or rejected

And by the most intelligent of all creations

The woman in turn uses the same term and enters the same process (verse 3)

From inception God has allowed His design to question His wisdom

God leaves room in HIS creation to be questioned

Again...THIS IS BEFORE THE FALL

[Why does God do this? What could He have done?](#)

God has designed creation seeking the highest good of His creatures and wants genuine responsive free love

Though God is not caught off guard, He ALTERS His plans, He adjusts

And he places Himself under His own decision to be in a position to listen and talk with us in the now

And this is not a foreign concept to God

In fact, this is God WITHOUT CREATION

TRINITY

I John 4:8 says God is love

The Father, Son, and Spirit have eternally been in relationship with one another

Relationality is essential to who God is

God also did not need to create to have relationship

In loving freedom God creates and extends this relationship to us

Hence, when it says we are created in God's image, we are an extension of His internal relationship

In essence, the Trinity takes risks everyday with each other

That is a BIZARRE way of saying it, and sounds wrong, but I think it is actually true

The difference is God is perfect with perfect character and ALWAYS does the right thing

But the statement is still true

[What is required to love?](#)

Risk, vulnerability

Granting the lover some level of power over you

By creating us, God made it possible for Himself to suffer

\* Jesus coming to earth, leaving people with the Spirit, etc.

Distinctiveness is a key element within the Trinity

Trinitarian freedom and uniqueness are the key to understanding OUR relationship to God

1. God co-exists within the Trinity on a loving free relationship
2. God then made humans capable of responding to His love w/ a love of their own
3. God is solely responsible for bringing this possibility about
4. But what God desires is a reciprocal relationship of love
5. Love is vulnerable and does not force itself on another
6. Result – there is inherent risk that the beloved may not respond
7. Therefore God must exercise general rather than specific sovereignty