

The Distance between God and Humankind

Genesis 3:8-10

1. Establishing a perfect relationship with God is the ultimate goal of Christian life. How happy we are whenever we feel God is near us and concerned with our life! On the other hand, how uneasy we feel when we think there is a big gap between God and us! What is the origin of such a gap?

Adam in the Garden of Eden hid behind a tree and shied away from God after he fell. While God was unchangeable, man kept Him at a distance, which was the result of sin committed by man. But we very often think that the gap resulted from God:

Does God know me?

Does God know my suffering?

God does not seem to love me.

God loves me less than before.

We should know who God is. He is the Lord of love. His motivation of creation was love; His providence of restoration (salvation) has been based on love; and the ultimate foal of His providence is to fulfill His ideal of love.

The nature of love is such that God cannot be happy without giving His love to his object. But there is something God cannot love, and there is something God can love only after a certain time period: God cannot love anything evil, and He cannot love anything that is against the principle of creation; and since God is perfect He cannot give His unconditional love to anything that is not yet perfect, and in such a case His love cannot help being limited.

2. Sympathetic love and original love.

In most cases people seek the sympathetic love of God, which is related with accepting repentance and forgiving. This is love that can be helpful to people in an emergency; love with which God may take better care of people!

But there was no such kind of love planned in the blueprint of creation. Why did He need to plan for a love concerned with tears, repentance, and relative happiness, He who aimed at seeing the world of goodness, harmony, and parent-child relationship? His original love was supposed to be true parental love toward true children; love that lasts forever; love which we do

not need to modify in any way; love which is not artificial; and love which He cannot help but keep giving.

3. Even though humankind has betrayed God one trillion times, He has not given up His ideal of original love. While humankind seeks sympathetic love from God in many different ways, God's main suffering results from situations in which He cannot give His original love.

Original love comes to us without asking. Let us think about original love rather than about limited, sympathetic love! After knowing original love, there would be no gap between Him and us. That gap was caused by us, not by Him!

After we eliminate the wall between God and ourselves, we can eliminate walls between each other, and the walls between mankind and all things. The closer to His original love I stand, the clearer to me the meaning of my life on earth can be.