

ASHLAND AM MEN

SESSION 2 | THE DESTRUCTION OF YOUR PASSIVE PRESENCE

Adam is passive with his presence, so...

1. God's Word is questioned

Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

2. God's goodness is attacked

⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

Sin promises goodness beyond God's abundant goodness. Because God knows the horrible realities beyond the moment of sin, His Word must be the authority that usurps the power of the desires sin provokes.

3. The woman "leads" him into sin

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Where your presence is passive, Satan is active with competing voices. God's word is being questioned. His goodness is being attacked. You are being led into sin. You must not merely be present; you must lead with God's word.

Adam is passive with his sin by...

⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.

1. Hiding his sin

And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

2. Running from God

And the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

3. Blaming his wife

¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

The passive man runs from God, hides his sin, and blames others.

While God is asking, "Where are you?", will you run, hide, and blame others for your sin? Or will you respond by owning your sin, confessing your sin, and seeking the accountability of others?

God is aggressive in addressing sin by...

1. Cursing the snake as a sign that Jesus will win

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

2. Cursing the blessing of life

¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."

3. Cursing man's responsibility

¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

4. Promising life

²⁰ the mother of all living.

5. Promising a sacrifice

²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

6. Promising a death

²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

When Adam was passive, God took dominion. He engaged Adam's sin. He cursed the sin and gave His promise of the gospel.

Taking dominion over sin means embracing the One who has taken dominion over your sin. Only then will we become gospel-centered leaders, protectors and providers who sacrifice for the good of others.

Homework

Establishing a PRESENCE

How would you describe your presence as a man in the most influential areas of your life? This is beyond your family. Areas of work, school, social, church. (pick the one that characterizes you the most)

- I am not there
- I am just there
- I am in the background
- I am distracted by _____
- I am engaged but not influential
- I give my opinions but avoid conflict
- I am engaged and influence most decisions
- I set the course and direction in light of what God has said
- I am active in protecting from voices that competing with God's Word

Ask someone who knows you and interacts with you regularly to answer this question.

How would you describe your presence at home (pick the one that characterizes you the most):

- I am not there
- I am just there
- I am in the background
- I am distracted by _____
- I am engaged but not influential
- I give my opinions but avoid conflict
- I am engaged and influence most decisions
- I set the course and direction for my family
- I am active in protecting from competing voices

How would your wife describe your presence?

How would your kids describe your presence? (use different marks)

Ask your wife to honestly choose one that describes your presence in the home.

What is the one thing that distracts you most from your family? Does this need to be totally discarded from your life? How can you take dominion over it?

How are you doing as a leader with God's Word? Choose all that describe your leadership.

- I rarely read the Word
- I only read the Bible by myself
- I take my family to church
- I study the Bible deeply
- I engage others with God's Word
- I pursue accountability in obeying God's Word
- I talk with my family about the sermons
- I engage my family when it comes to theology
- I ask my kids what they learn at school and how it compares to the Bible
- My wife and kids ask me questions about the Bible

In what areas do you need to have more of a presence as a...

1. Leader with the Word
2. Protector with the Word
3. Provider with the Word

What specific steps will you take to establish your presence as a leader, protector, and provider with God's Word?

Find the competing voices

Honestly answer the question, who or what influences most decisions in your life?

How do these VOICES distract you from obeying Scripture and walking with Jesus?

What decisions are you making that clearly violate Scripture because of these competing voices?

In your home in general, where do you find voices that compete with God's Word?

- Friends
- Entertainment
- Culture
- Work
- School
- Social Media (Facebook, Youtube, Tiktok, Instagram, Twitter, Be Reel etc)
- News
- Other(s)_____

Honestly answer this question, who or what has the most influence on your wife?

Honestly answer this question, who or what has the most influence on your kids?

What decisions are being made by members of your family that clearly violate Scripture as a result of these competing voices?

How is your wife struggling because you are allowing something other than God's Word to lead and guide your family?

What problems would you say your kids are facing because you allow something other than the Bible to determine their decisions?

What steps will you take *by God's grace* to take dominion over the competing voices?

Owning your sin

How are you specifically questioning God's goodness by believing sin is better than what He has provided? What sin seems better than God's provision in your life?

When you are running from God, what does it look like in your life?

- I fill my life work
- I fill life with other activities as distractions
- I avoid friends who hold me accountable
- I stay away from fellowship in general
- I avoid church attendance
- I do not pray
- I do not read the Word
- _____
- _____
- _____

What sin(s) are you currently trying to hide? How are you hiding it?

Who are you blaming for your sin?

What excuses are you making for this sin?

Take steps right now to own your sin. (1) Confess your sin, (2) Repent of your sin by looking to Jesus and believing the gospel. (3) Seek accountability to turn from this sin. Speak to your closest friend who is (1) a Christian (2) involved in close fellowship with you (3) has the courage and grit to hold you accountable in your repentance.

Now what steps will you take to avoid this sin at all cost?

- Be in the Word daily
- Pray without ceasing

- Find new friends
- Seek aggressive accountability from others
- Get rid of phone or internet access
- Other(s) _____

How is God right now asking: “Where are you?” Take some time and reflect on the truth that God pursues you with the promise. Write out why you are thankful for His pursuit of you.

Jesus is the ultimate sacrificial leader, protector, and provider. Spend time thanking Jesus for the specific ways He is your sacrificial leader, protector, and provider.