Weekly Bible Study

group – October 22, 2008

This week’s reading assignment: Genesis 3-4

Last week when we studied Genesis chapter 2, we saw that this whole chapter is a vision of what God intends for creation. What we see there is a whole creation in harmony, at peace with itself and with God. And this is all summarized in that amazing final line in chapter 2: “they were naked and felt no shame.” This means that humans were vulnerable, open, living in union with each other and with all things. There was no shame, no hiding, no walls.

But all that changes in chapter 3. When sin and brokenness enter the story, automatically the walls go up. The nakedness is covered out of shame. The close relationship between humans and the earth is shattered.

This is the kind of world we live in. A “cursed” world, you might say. And that brokenness is seen in our isolation, our shame, our hiding from each other. As God’s people, living for the kingdom, what will our response be?

1) Many different “walls” go up in chapter 3. In verse 17 and following, for example, a wall is built between Adam and the earth itself. No longer will they work in harmony together. What are some of the other walls that we see in this chapter?

2) How well do these chapters describe the world that you live in? How do you see these realities in your own life and in the lives of people around you?

3) Throughout the scriptures, we’re told that the people of God have a special mission on earth. To be in the world, but not conformed to the world. To be broken with the world, but to also bring healing. As God’s people today, how can we begin to rebel against the brokenness? How can we live in defiance of this “curse”? What does God intend for us to revolt against?