

# Forgiveness

David and Beverly Sedlacek

# **GOD'S PLAN**

# Genesis of Sin

## Eternity Past

**GODHEAD**

**UNFALLEN  
BEINGS**



# Genesis of Sin

## Creation of Humanity

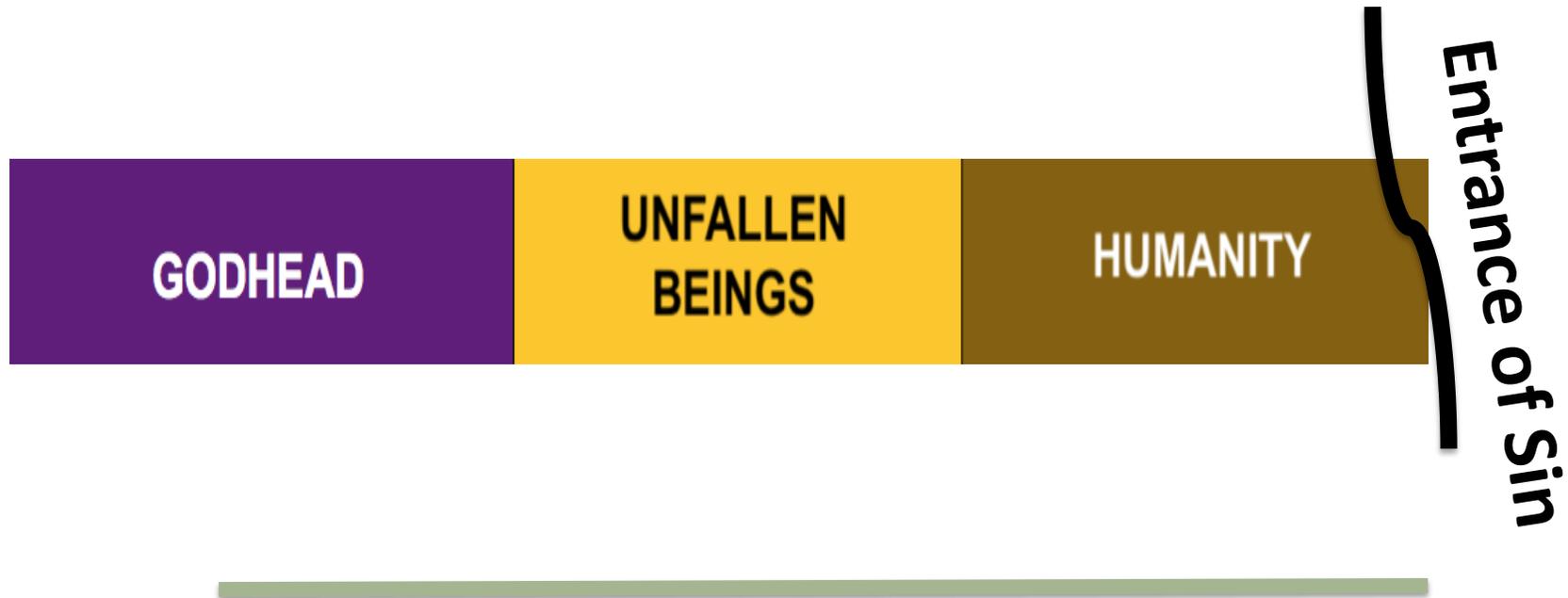


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ETERNITY PAST

PEACE

# ENTRANCE OF SIN



# SIN's Effects on Humanity

- Shaming/Diminishment
- Judging
- Genesis of Victim/Victimizer Cycle

# Godhead Response To Sin



Jesus Came to Reveal

The GODHEAD Heart Toward HUMANITY

# Godhead Response To Sin



Jesus, the Perfect Victim

# JESUS



Took Our Shame Upon Himself

Took Our Judgment (The Judge Judged)

Broke Apart the Victim/Victimizer Cycle

# JESUS

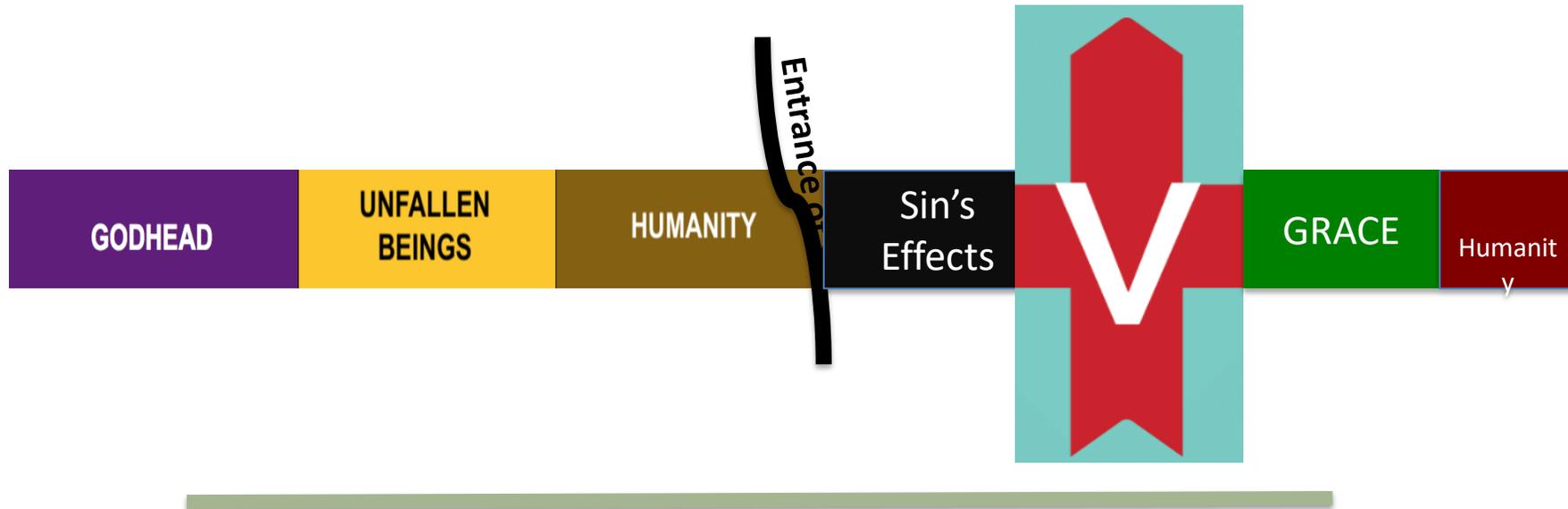
Instead offers Humanity



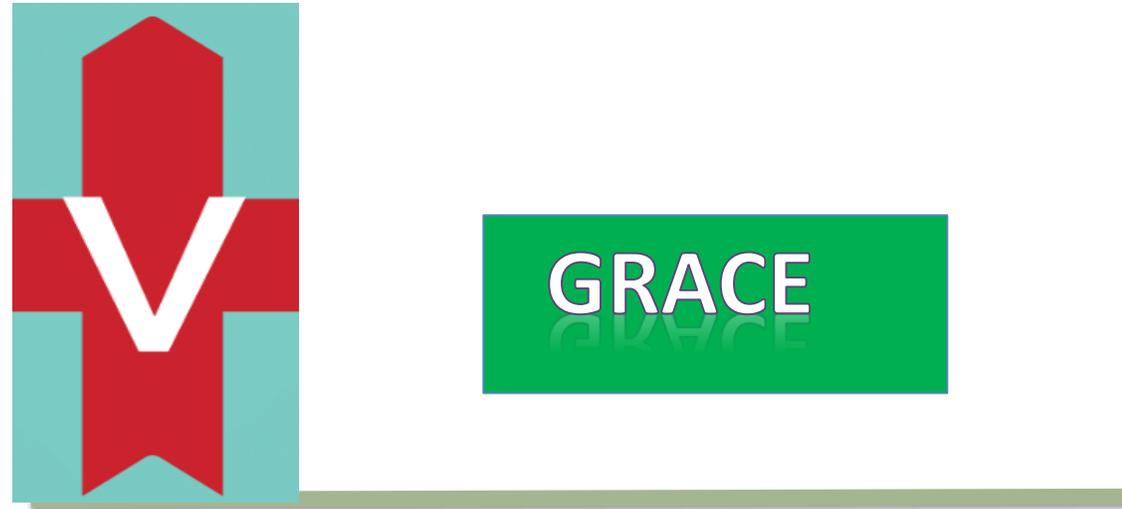
# Redeemed Humanity



# Redeemed Humanity



# Today: The Cycle is Broken



# However....

We live as if the

Cycle is NOT

**Broken... There is**

**NO PEACE**

Which means there is a continuation of

**Shame and Diminishment**

**Judgmentalism**

**Victim-Victimizer Cycle**

We live without  
the memory of our past  
and  
no hope for  
a different future

# Forgiveness-Definition

- Forgiveness is often defined as a deliberate decision to let go of feelings of anger, resentment, and retribution toward someone who you believe has wronged you.

# Scriptural Foundations

- Matthew 21:12-17 Having the capacity for righteous anger is important. Jesus was angry when he cleansed the temple.
- Matthew 18:6 If Jesus is angry about children being hurt, injustice and oppression, it is important that we join him in his righteous indignation. God's anger empowers and leads to action.
- Ephesians 4:26 Be angry but don't sin. Righteous anger does not seek to destroy the one who hurt us, but rather moves toward forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Ephesians 4:26 Don't let the sun go down on your anger. Deal with the offense quickly so that the devil will not gain a foothold in the situation.

# Myths about Forgiveness (1/5)

- ***Forgive and Forget***

- Jesus will forever carry the scars of the crucifixion in his body.
- God does not ask us to pretend that something did not happen or that it did not hurt us.
- On the other hand, God does cast our sins into the sea of forgetfulness and puts our sins away from us as far as the east is from the west (Isaiah 43:25).  
Therefore, when forgiveness is given, the offense is never to be brought up again and used as a weapon against the offending party.

# Myths about Forgiveness (2/5)

- ***Forgiveness implies trust***
  - Trust must be earned. The offender must take steps to remedy the problem. If not, the person can be fully forgiven, but trusting them would be unwise and set both parties up for future pain.

# Scriptural Foundations

- Ephesians 4:31-32 Be kind to one another, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.
- Matthew 18:21-22 Forgiveness to be an embodied way of life, not conditional or limited.
- Matthew 18:23-35 Parable of the unforgiving debtor.
  - Jesus teaches that we are to forgive others as we have been forgiven.
  - An unforgiving heart leads to bitterness and ultimately murder.
  - We condemn ourselves to torment when we refuse to forgive.
- Matthew 6:12, 14-15 Forgiveness is freely given to all persons, but the hardness of our hearts prevents us from receiving the forgiveness God is freely giving.

# Myths about Forgiveness (3/5)

- ***Forgiveness is easy.***
  - Forgiveness is a process more than an event. A decision to forgive often must be made many times as a person wrestles with the pain and consequences of an offense.

# Myths about Forgiveness (4/5)

- ***As Christians, forgiveness is something that we “should” do right away.***
  - It is unwise and even damaging for well-meaning persons to insist that a person forgive the offender before they are ready.

# Myths about Forgiveness (5/5)

- ***Holding onto bitterness does not hurt anyone.***
  - Research shows that a person pays a heavy price physically and emotionally when she harbors bitterness and resentment. Relationships are also often strained or broken through unforgiveness.

# The Process of Forgiveness

- Tell your story (to discover what the offenses were that hurt you).
- Feel and embrace the pain (Through a ministry of the presence of God).
- Experience God's comfort (He comforts us at the point of pain whether it is new or old pain).
- Gethsemane "He who knew no sin became sin for us"
  - (Ask God to show you how you are just like the person who hurt you, so that your forgiveness will not be from a position of superiority).

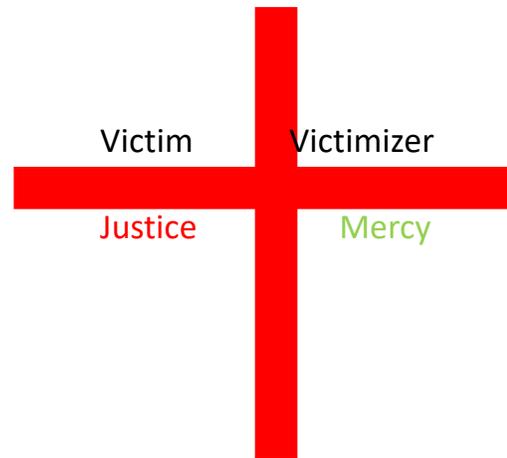
# The Process of Forgiveness

- Change of Heart (Ask God to change your heart toward the person who hurt you).
- Make a decision to forgive (does not make what happened ok, but releases you and the other person to God).
- Pray for God's greatest and choicest blessings on the one who hurt you (further opens your heart to that person).
- Seek reconciliation with the one who hurt you. It may only be in your heart because they may not be safe or be open to it(Matthew 18).

# The Process of Forgiveness

- Establish healthy boundaries (The sad reality is that some people are toxic and not safe. Clearly expressing what you are and are not willing to tolerate in the future is an important part of growth for many people who tend to be victims or doormats).

# Justice and Mercy



# God Will Restore

- “If any of the people – men or women – betray the Lord by doing wrong to another person, they are guilty. They must confess their sin and make full restitution for what they have done, adding an additional 20 percent and returning it to the person who was wronged. “(Numbers 5:6-7) See also Leviticus 6:1-7. THEN this verse makes sense....

“The Lord says I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.” (Joel 2:25)

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