

Love

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰And he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ~ Genesis 3:8-10

Afraid, naked, ashamed — the “post-sin” emotional and mental state of our first parents. Original, for certain, but not unique. Our sin exposes us to such a deep sense of shame that we live our lives trying to mask our fear. Our nudity is not physical so much as it is emotional.

We consider ourselves as truly worthless in our natural state. Human existence amounts to little more than an attempt to hide our perception of who we truly are from those with whom we associate. There is such joy in finding a comrade with whom we can *truly be ourselves*. These relationships, however, involve a degree of risk and, often times, pain. We rarely find them.

Some are able to come to grips with the fortress they build around their understanding of themselves. Generally, wrapped up in a sense of success in some field of endeavor, any field, the fortress provides an understanding of personal validity. In that place they feel they have arrived and “made the most” of life. But, how the walls will crash if tragedy strikes them.

Into the scene played out with our first parents, steps God. He calls. Love reaches to bring healing and protection. A pre-cursor for God stepping into human history in the Person of Jesus Christ. He alone, because of His love, has resolution for the tyranny of our self understanding. His love and life brings value for He is the only external source of value.

As long as we build our fortresses, we live with the possibility of the walls collapsing and our condition being revealed. When He leads through life, clothing us with His love, we have discovered true life.

Ah, Father,

Today, again we see part of Your reason for doing all of this. While our sin separated us from You, You could not bear the separation. You paid the greatest price that has ever been paid for people. In Your love all that is wrong has been over powered by divine intervention. You have taken what was unlovable and have made us "vessels of honor" to your glory, and our benefit. I say thank You. It's not nearly enough. But, it's the best I can do. Amen.

~ Roland Hearn
Frisco, Texas, USA

Hark the Herald Angels Sing



*Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"*