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DIVINE DESIGN

DESIGNED TO NOT BE SOME THINGS (LESSONS FROM THE GARDEN)

Review:

- 1) We were designed to run to perfection
- 2) We were designed to be holy. Jesus treated God's rules with respect and declared them to be relevant, teaching us to do the same. Rather than abolish the law, He raised the bar on every level.
- 3) We were designed to bear His name. Bearing His name means that . . .
 - We have something of real value.
 - We have good counsel.
 - We have protection.
 - We have favor.
 - We have family.

Today: Some Things We Are Not Designed to Be

1. Not Designed to be _____. Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18

Being difficult wasn't part of God's original plan. Notice key phrases: in our (God's) image; after our likeness, in his own image, in the image of God; an help

Nobody in here would say that God is difficult by nature, although He has earned the right to be a heavy hand.

On the other hand . . .

We know Him to be attentive and accommodating and benevolent and compassionate and considerate and favorable and kind—so many things that show being difficult isn't His first thought.

All of us have had to deal with difficult people at one time or another:

- ___ family members
- ___ fellow workers
- ___ bosses
- ___ neighbors
- ___ teachers
- ___ students
- ___ sales people
- ___ customers
- ___ drivers
- ___ church members

Remember that we don't live in the Garden of Eden any more. Paradise hasn't yet been restored, and sin and pride still affect us big time. Jesus said we would always have the poor with us, and like the poor, difficult people will always be with us.

People who make things hard for us are just a fact of life. Difficult people aren't going away any time soon. So we might as well get used to them.

The goal: to be as accommodating as possible.

2. Not Designed to be _____. Genesis 3:6ff

This is the problem. Eve didn't realize what she was doing. Adam did.

"And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."

1 Timothy 2:14

Question: Did Adam hold it against Eve that she had plunged him and all mankind into sin?

People are often angry with others who know nothing about it or can do nothing about it.

This is the challenge: Some of us are confrontational and some are not.

The ones who are maybe keep shorter accounts.

Forgiveness in the Bible is a two-way street:

Matthew 18:15

Luke 17:3

Matthew 5:23-24

Sometimes people are able to hold onto unforgiveness because their memories are too good for their own good.

What do we do when abuses and unkindnesses come our way? Use the GRACE card.

Goal: Forgive someone this week who's done you wrong, maybe even a long time ago. Just do it.

3. Not Designed to _____. Genesis 3:12-13; 4:1, 2

Eve could have said to Adam, "What were you thinking giving me up to God like that?!"

Do WE know very many people who get **disappointed** with themselves over something they have said or done?

Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I [am] the LORD.

Leviticus 19:18

When someone does something wrong, don't forget all the things they have done right.

Let your hands be so busy catching blessings that you aren't able to hold grudges.

That's some Christlikeness right there!

Goal: Aim for Christlikeness. Grudge, be gone!