

# GENESIS

Why The Beginning Matters

## Study 6

### The Consequences of the Fall

#### Genesis 3:7-24

#### Part 1 of 3: Alienation and its Effects on man

#### Verse 7-8

Genesis 3:7-8 (ESV)

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

**1) a) Objective question. Select all that apply. Based on the video lecture and passage, what are the effects of the fall?**

- A. Men are alienated from God, the ↕ vertical relationship is affected
- B. Men are alienated from other men, the ↔ horizontal relationship is affected
- C. Humans created a barrier (fig leaves & loincloths) from each other
- D. Humans created a barrier (hiding) from God
- E. Humans don't trust others (other men or God)

**b) Reflection question. What are some examples of how the relationship between humans are affected?**

**c) Reflection question. As Christians, should we fight against the effect of broken relationship between humans?**

#### Verse 8-11

Genesis 3:8-11 (ESV)

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I

commanded you not to eat?"

**2) Discussion question. Doesn't God have X-ray vision to know where Adam and Eve are or all-knowing (omniscient) to know what Adam and Eve are thinking? Why did God bother to ask them questions?**

### Verse 12-13

Genesis 3:12-13 (ESV)

The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

**3) Reflection question. Adam blamed God for giving him the woman, and Eve blamed the animal that was supposed to be under their dominion. The blame game is sadly one of the consequences of the fall still very much present today. Will attribution of responsibility (eg: "20% A's fault, 70% B's fault and 10% C's fault.") help manage the tension to admit responsibility and resolve issues better? Share what other ways or tools we can use to avoid the blame game.**

Part 2 of 3: Judgement- The Results of Alienation

### Verse 14-19

Genesis 3:14-19 (ESV)

The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.  
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."

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.”

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;

thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;

and you shall eat the plants of the field.

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.”

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

**4) a) Objective question. Select all that apply. Based on the video lecture and passage, what are the judgements on women as a result of the fall?**

- A. Woman’s physical suffering during child labour
- B. There is a loss of intimacy between husbands and wives
- C. There is a subjugation and objectification of women
- D. Identity-based function; The woman was named by her function (Eve-mother of all living) instead being of her identity of a co-helper (woman)
- E. Women had to bear children

**b) Objective question. Select all that apply. Based on the video lecture and passage, what are the judgements on men as a result of the fall?**

- A. Alienation from Creation
- B. Work is cursed, frustrating and full of setbacks and office politics (the blessing of work/fruitful/multiply is corrupted)
- C. Men will return to dust and ground
- D. Men will need to listen to the voice of their wife all their lives

**c) Objective question. Select all that apply. Based on the video lecture and passage, what are the judgements on the serpent/Satan as a result of the fall?**

- A. Snakes will eat dust and become vacuum cleaners for humans
- B. The Serpent is separated from the woman
- C. 'Bruise on head' is a fatal blow to the Serpent by 'the seed'/'the offspring (Jesus)
- D. Satan will 'eat dust' or get defeated

Part 3 of 3: Grace- God's Redemptive Purpose

**Verse 20-24**

Genesis 3:20-24 (ESV)

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 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.

**5) a) Discussion Question. God sacrificed animals to cloth Adam and Eve and this alludes to Christ's sacrifice to clothe us with his righteousness. Does this mean that God is okay with humans using animal fur coats or products with animal testing?**

**b) Reflection Question. Do you sometimes wish that humans in the current state, have access to immortality (tree of life)?**

**Takeaway for Genesis 3:7-24**

Part 1 of 3: Alienation and its Effects on man  
 Part 2 of 3: Judgement- The Results of Alienation  
 Part 3 of 3: Grace- God's Redemptive Purpose  
 Jesus is the Tree of Life

**Case Study**

**Case 1 – Consequences of Sin on Work**

Charles worked as a highly successful engineer with a large multinational company and really loved his job. His company had been given the contract to build the Light Rail Transportation system in Ampang Jaya. He had been building LRTs for the past 20 years. They recently had a particularly large order to build 100 km of track and Charles although well trained and conscientious encountered innumerable problems at work. His new boss was abusive and difficult. He was not given enough funds to purchase the right quality materials to build the

system as the boss was trying to maximize profit and was probably skimming money from the top. There was daily theft of building materials on site. His workers were constantly fighting and had lots of visa problems. He was constantly harassed by suppliers who wanted to bribe him to gain contracts.

**1) a) Discussion question. Charles wanted to quit because he felt that there were too many problems on the job. He felt that this was not the job for him because there were too many problems, is this true? What do you think are his options going ahead?**

**b) Discussion question. How can he cope with the pressure?**

**c) Discussion question. Should he decide to quit what are his options?**

Model Answer

a. Charles wanted to quit because he felt that there were too many problems on the job. He felt that this was not the job for him because there were too many problems, is this true? What do you think are his options going ahead?

It is important for Charles to realize that his work was good and important as it was building a mode of transportation that would benefit many people in the country. However all work as stated in Genesis is good but cursed, it produces stresses and strains and difficulties due to the curse of sin as can be seen by all those problems in his work brought on by the greed of others

He can either quit and find a job with less stress and temptations or he can continue and ride out the storm. If he quits, it has to be because he cannot take the strain of the job and would like a different alternative and not because of a faulty belief that his work was not good. He has to understand the work is good but cursed and his job is to redeem it not run away from it because of a belief that the work was inherently evil.

b. How can he cope with the pressure?

He needs to daily commit his work to the Lord in prayer and ask for wisdom in approaching the task. He will need to stand firm and refuse to take bribes from suppliers and ensure only the very best material gets to the LRT system as the safety of the public was at stake. He needs to be candid with his new boss by clearly stating the need for the necessary funding to progress, and if the money is not forthcoming then he has to document his requests properly so that he will not be blamed and made the scapegoat in case of accidents. If the attitude of his boss does not change and the safety of the public is compromised, then he will have no choice but to resign and not be a part of this project that may bring catastrophe to the public.

c. Should he decide to quit what are his options?

Option 1. Retire and travel as he can do this now, but he may feel bored and even die early if he is used to being active.

Option 2. Retire and serve in the church as a lay minister as he has the gift of teaching and time is short. As he is getting on in age and the society we live in is increasingly dark, hence the need for more of God's love and light in the world. We need to work whilst there is yet opportunity, hence what better way to spend the last best years of one's life extending His kingdom!

### Background Information

In a study of Shell Oil employees it was found that **people that retired at 55 and lived to be 65 died 37% sooner than those that retired at 65**. They also found that people who retired at age 55 were 89% more likely to die within 10 years than those that retired at 65.

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### **Case 2 – Consequences of Sin on Marriage**

Geraldine was married to a rather abusive husband who would drink and was constantly borrowing money and placing his family under the burden of debt. There were several instances where Ah Longs came around to the house to demand money from her and she had to pay them off with what little she had. Every month her husband would take her pay packet and give her back a little for household expenses. He would splurge the rest by coming home drunk and beating the children.

Whenever she would protest he would then beat her up and tell her that he was the head of the household and even threatened to divorce her. In fact, a few years ago he actually drew up the divorce papers for Geraldine to sign but she refused.

Geraldine was a deeply spiritual woman and even when she was pregnant and going in for delivery, she refused any pain killers as she believed it was natural to undergo the pain as part of God's curse upon all women.

She quietly put up with the abuse because she believed that her husband should be the head of the household and that marriage was sacred and forever. He refused to let her go to church for the last 20 years and she has obeyed him. She has two girls and they are not

allowed to read the bible or go to church.

**2) a) Discussion question. What do you think about Geraldine's actions? Are they wise? Does both her husband and she have a good understanding of what headship is?**

**b) Discussion question. What do you think will happen to the family if Geraldine continues in her present course of action?**

**c) Discussion question. How should Geraldine best love her husband and children?**

Model Answer

a. What do you think about Geraldine's actions are they wise? Does both her husband and she have a good understanding of what headship is?

They have the wrong understanding of headship which consisted of male domination to the detriment of the wife instead of a leadership based on love. Her desire to suffer the pain of childbirth is based on the misunderstanding of the Genesis 3 passage as God desiring all women to suffer pain in childbirth rather than understanding the labor pain as the consequence of sin. Labor pain, strife, enmity and disease, and the breakdown of nature are all unfortunate consequences of the sin of man and not something God desires man to suffer.

A consequence and God's design are two different things.

God desires good for man as He made all things good but sin came into the world and made good things bad. Hence we should seek to redeem man from the consequences of his actions just as Jesus' death on the cross is the ultimate redemption of man and this world, not giving up on them. In due time in the new heaven and earth, He will wipe away all tears and make things right.

Right now on our part, we act like Christ would to relieve pain and suffering. Jesus during his ministry made it a point to physically heal so many people even though these folk would still eventually die but his healing was an acknowledgment that creation is good but cursed and his role was to reverse it and his miracles pointed to the ultimate healing of the world at his second coming.

b. What do you think will happen to the family if Geraldine continues in her present course of action?

She will severely jeopardize her own faith as well as that of her children if she continues to be oppressed by her family. The ideals of family and marriage in Genesis 2 need to be tempered

with the reality of sin and the picture of marriage after the fall of man. She cannot blindly cling to marriage ideals in the face of danger to her and her children.

c. Discussion question. How should Geraldine best love her husband and children?

External help: She already has had trouble handling these issues for years and may not be in a healthy state to make decisions, she can call for the help of fellow brothers and sisters, relatives, therapists, or whatever external help she can get.

Physical need: With the bleeding financial situation and perhaps physical bleeding from all the physical abuse, Geraldine should seek refuge where she can use the money she earns to provide for the physical needs of herself and her children. It will also be good for the husband's liver if he no longer has access to money to buy alcohol.

Spiritual need: Both Geraldine and her two daughters can be the best loved when they have access to God and the community He provides.

The final straw: If no reconciliation or rehabilitation after multiple attempts, she should consider divorcing her husband and he has even requested it as it would take her and the girls out of an abusive relationship 1 Cor 7:15-16 states " But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases, the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. 16 For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife"

### **Case 3 – Consequences of Sin on Emotions**

Jeff is a businessman who runs a struggling construction company, Jericho Walls Sdn Bhd. Despite working hard over many years, he was unable to generate any profit.

One day, a government official, named Abu, approached Jeff for a substantial government contract worth RM200 million. This tender would allow Jeff to pay off all his debts and live comfortably for the rest of his life.

However, there is one caveat and that is, that he has to pay RM1 million to Abu after the contract is given to Jericho Walls Sdn Bhd. Essentially, Abu wants a cut of the deal from the government paycheck.

Due to his desperation, Jeff accepted the offer and gave the kickback to Abu. After this incident, Jeff made his money but felt like he should not have done what he did.

**3) a) Discussion question. Sin results in feelings and emotions once it has been committed. What do you think Jeff felt?**

**b) Discussion question. From that time on, whenever Jeff was asked where his fortune came from, he changes the subject. Why do you think this is happening?**

**c) Discussion question. Eventually, Jeff starts to justify his dealings with Abu as a means to survive in a harsh world. Why has he become numb to his conscience?**

Model Answer

a. Sin results in feelings and emotions once it has been committed. What do you think Jeff felt?

One of the consequences of sin is the feeling of internal shame and guilt. This is likely what Jeff felt.

Consider how Adam and Eve “realized they were naked” in Genesis 3:7.

Though the word “shame” is not used here, it is strongly implied, because this verse is the opposite of 2:25, where we read that Adam and Eve had been “naked and unashamed”. Atkinson writes: “*Shame... is that sense of unease with yourself at the heart of your being.*” (p.87)

Some people distinguish “shame” from “guilt” somewhat. Guilt is feeling bad about what you’ve done; shame is feeling bad about what you are. That certainly fits this verse.

b. From that time on, whenever Jeff was asked where his fortune came from, he changes the subject. Why do you think this is happening?

Another consequence of sin is mistrust and fear of other people.

Like how Adam and Eve sewed their own clothing made of fig leaves in Genesis 2:7, “*There is a secretiveness... a desire to hide, to retreat from the old unself-protective mutuality. Innocence has changed into fear, as each with urgency and desperation seeks protection from the gaze of the other.*” (Motyer, p.118).

In short, Adam and Eve don’t trust each other now. They create defenses, and only reveal what they think will keep them in control what the other knows. Every human being, to some degree, is hiding from the human race. We are all desperately seeking to determine what others see of us, rather than allowing anyone to see the full truth.

c. Eventually, Jeff starts to justify his dealings with Abu as a means to survive in a harsh world. Why has he become numb to his conscience?

Another consequence of sin is an inability to see our own sin.

In Genesis 2:8-10, when God comes to the garden, Adam and Eve hide within the garden (v.8) because of a general sense of fear of God looking upon them as they are (“because I was naked”, v.10). This, however, is not the godly ‘fear of the Lord’ that the Bible encourages.

On the one hand, they do unavoidably sense that they are now unfit for God’s presence. But their understanding of the reason for that — their sin — totally escapes them. Motyer points out that if they had a true, clear sense of their unworthiness and sin, they would either  
a) would have fled from the garden, knowing that they did not deserve it (but they didn’t leave), or else  
b) would have stayed and repented and admitted what they did wrong (but they didn’t confess — see vv.12ff.).

*“In Genesis 3:8 there is an inadequate awareness of the seriousness of sin, moral perceptions are clouded, and the self-centered view of values is well beneath the God-centered view... They [sense that] they cannot meet and keep company with the Lord God as before, but neither do they see that the consequence of sin is loss of paradise. Hearing the approach of the Lord, they hide, but within the Garden... The blindness of sin is beginning to take effect... From the moment of the Fall, humankind has suffered from moral schizophrenia: neither able to deny sinfulness nor to acknowledge it for what it is.” – Motyer, p.118-119*

#### **Case 4 – Blame and Self-Justification**

Bernard is a member of the Sixth Baptist Church. He comes from a broken family and he is an alcoholic.

For many years, whenever Bernard faces hard times, he turns to the bottle for solace. Unfortunately, he abuses the alcohol he drinks and hurts people around him when he is inebriated.

When his LG friends try to lovingly correct him, he claims he is unable to change.

Bernard blames the fact that he is an alcoholic on his father. When Bernard was in his teenage years, he saw how his father drank when he was stressed during the rare times his father came home. Bernard followed in his footsteps despite being warned against it by his mother. He claims he is a victim of his circumstances.

**4) a) Discussion question. In essence, was Bernard taking responsibility for his actions?**

**b) Discussion question. Additionally, Bernard blames God for his drunkenness because it was God who “gave” him an alcoholic father. How does sin affect how one’s view of God?**

**c) Discussion question. Was Bernard right to blame anyone other than himself? Why?**

Model Answer

a. In essence, was Bernard taking responsibility for his actions?

When there is sin in one’s life, one of the most common reactions is to blame and turn on others in self-justification. We naturally do not want to take responsibility for our own sins.

How Adam and Eve reacted in Genesis 3 reveals one of the key ways that we now deal with our own sin. We blame and condemn others.

God’s first question is general. He asks, essentially: “Why are you in this condition — hiding?” Adam’s first answer to God completely avoids the real truth — that he has eaten of the tree. He only talks of his inner psychological sense of shame and fear.

God’s second question is so direct that Adam cannot avoid the truth, but he immediately deflects the responsibility away from himself to Eve. She does the same to the serpent. Here then we see a further breakdown in human relationships. Not only are we afraid and mistrustful of one another (v.7) but we are positively hostile to one another. Different races, genders, and individuals foster a sense of superiority and/or a sense of victimhood in order to justify ourselves.

b. Additionally, Bernard blames God for his drunkenness because it was God who “gave” him an alcoholic father. How does sin affect how one’s view of God?

Sin corrupts our view of who God is. In blaming and turning on others in self-justification, we can possibly do the same to the Lord. Our sin can turn our bitterness, anger, and hostility towards our Creator!

Adam’s answer in Genesis 3:12 shows that even in the very presence of God, humanity has now become resentful of and hostile to God. Adam says: “The woman you put here with me — she gave me... and I ate...” This is a clear accusation that God is himself to blame for what Adam has done.

The blame sounds like this: God gave him the woman who was supposed to help him! Clearly, he gave Adam an inferior, flawed product!

So we see that, just as with other human beings, our relationship with God is not simply one of mistrust, but of anger and hostility. We consider God an enemy.

c. Was Bernard right to blame anyone other than himself? Why?

As Adam was responsible for his own actions, Bernard is fully responsible for his.

Despite Eve's influence on Adam's decision, Adam had the choice not to take of the fruit when it was offered to him. Likewise, Bernard had the choice not to follow in his father's footsteps.

We may not be able to control how our environment is but we can control how we react to our influences. Essentially, we are responsible for the choices we make, whatever the influences may be.

#### **Case 5 – Consequences of Sin on our Bodies**

Robin is an atheist who does not believe that God exists. This is because she feels that if the God of the Bible was real, He is cruel to allow His creations to die. She reasons that if He loves us as the Bible claims, He would not allow us to suffer and experience death in the world He created.

**5) a) Discussion question. How would you answer Robin?**

#### Model Answer

Because of sin, there is *physical breakdown*. In Genesis 3:16-17, we see in this passage that "*pain*" and "*sweat*" leads to physical death itself. "Until you return to the ground" (v.19). Disease, old age, natural disasters, and death itself are the results of sin. Before the Fall God ruled over Man who ruled over Nature. Now, we see in v.19, it is "God — over Nature — over Man." The dust of the ground "wins" over us in the end.

Truly as God has said in Genesis 2:17, "in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die". The physical decay of the body and eventual demise is a consequence of sin, and not intended by God.

### **Case 6 – Future Redemption**

**Look at Genesis 3:14-15. Gen 1-2 tell us of creation, and Gen 3 tells us of the fall.**

Genesis 3:14-15

So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock  
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly  
and you will eat dust  
all the days of your life.

And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel.”

**6) Discussion question. What do we learn here about hope for a future redemption?**

### Model Answer

First, God in v.14 declares personal war on sin and evil

Second, God shows us that he will carry out this warfare not simply by saving individual souls, but by creating two basic ‘races’ within humanity! He speaks of “the seed of the woman” and “the seed of the serpent”. This is (as Revelation 12:9; 20:2 reveals) two groups of people. As we saw last week, the chapter broadly indicates that the serpent was not simply an animal, but the agent of a far greater evil intelligence. Thus the ‘seed of the serpent’ is that part of humanity that follows the lies of the serpent — that God is an enemy, that we have the right to judge his word, that we can find our own salvation and happiness without him. But another group will be different.

Third, this other group — the ‘seed of the woman’ are not naturally good people, for God will “put enmity” between this group and the world-view and people of the serpent. He is saying, “I will raise up a people who see your lives for what they are.” Thus this is a promise that God will intervene in the lives and hearts of these people. The ‘seed of the woman’, of course, is the people of God in every generation. These are the ones who only by God’s grace and conversion has come to see the truth about sin and God.

Fourth, the ultimate triumph over sin and the serpent will be carried out by a single individual.

In Genesis 3:15 there is an ambiguity waiting to be solved. The word 'seed' [is singular] and leaves the door open for an individual fulfillment. – Motyer, p.34

We not only learn here that this individual will defeat the serpent utterly (for to crush a serpent's head is to kill it) — but that in the process he himself will suffer (you will wound his heel).

**Reflection question**

What did you learn today about sin that most impressed you? How can it make a practical difference in the way you live?