

Fallen... Under the Curse

Genesis 3:8-24

Temptation promises pleasure but delivers pain - always. When Adam took the bait, he plunged all of creation into the destructive consequences of sin: guilt, shame, fear, strife, and death. He also left a legacy of sin that affects every one of us. But thanks be to our Creator who is bringing an end to the curse of sin!

Effects of Sin – Genesis 3:7-13

- Shame of self – 2:25
 - “...what we hunger for perhaps more than anything else is to be known in our full humanness, and yet that is often just what we also fear more than anything else.”
Telling Secrets, Fredrick Buechner, pp. 2-3
- Fear of God
 - Prov 28:1
- Deceit (of self and others) – 3:10-12
- Genesis 3:5
 - Satan’s temptation held a kernel of truth (cp. 3:22). However, the “knowledge of good and evil would also bring destructive consequences.
 - “Knowledge of good and evil” = moral autonomy; moral self-rule
 - Romans 1:22, 25a; Proverbs 20:17

Curse of sin – Genesis 3:14-24

- Cursed labor
 - Eve in “childbirth” – 3:16a
 - Pain in “conception” = not just delivery. This likely includes infertility, delivery, infant mortality, death in childbirth.
 - Adam in work – 3:17-19
 - “toil” = pain in 3:16
 - Work itself was not part of curse, but frustration and futility in work came as a result of the curse.
- Cursed relationships – 3:16b
 - With spouse
 - “your desire” = not attraction, but desire to rule
 - Gen 4:7 is the only other use of this word. There it means desire to rule; dominate.
 - Unwilling to submit to God; hard to submit to husband
 - “he will rule” = he will dominate
 - Women will be vulnerable in marriage to domineering man
 - Or man may become passive like Adam and not a protector
 - With creation – Genesis 3:18; Romans 8:22 (NET)
 - With God
- Curse of death – Genesis 2:17
 - Didn’t die physically that day. However, they were cast out of the Garden.
 - Spiritual death – Gen 3:22-24
 - Death = separation, not annihilation
 - Physical death
 - Not immediate. Adam began to age; body degenerated. Why?

- Out of garden = away from the “tree of life”

Legacy of sin

- Romans 5:19a; 1 Cor 15:22a
- Beatrice Web, one of the architects of British socialism, wrote in 1925... “Somewhere in my diary – 1890? – I wrote ‘I have staked all on the essential goodness of human nature...’ [Now thirty-five years later I realize] how permanent are the evil impulses and instincts in man – how little you can count on changing some of these – for instance the appeal of wealth and power – by any change in the [social] machinery...No amount of knowledge or science will be of any avail unless we can curb the bad impulse.”
- “Total Depravity”
 - NOT that we are as bad as we possibly could be
 - EVERY aspect of human nature is damaged by sin
 - Mind, body, emotions, will
 - Still bear the image of God; image damaged not destroyed.
 - **J.M. and B. A. Milne, New Bible Dictionary, 1106.** “[T]here is no area or aspect of human life which is absolved from the sombre effects of man’s fallenness....”
- We are not inherently good, and we cannot fix what is most deeply broken in ourselves and in our societies, which is separation from God.

End of sin

- *God doesn’t walk away from Adam, Eve, creation or culture. They deserve instant destruction for their rebellion, but God intervenes with grace and mercy.*
- God seeks – Gen 3:9
- God promises – 3:14-15a
 - Literal, individual, personal conflict
 - Multi-generational conflict – Gen 3:15b; Rev 12:9; John 8:44
 - Eschatological conflict and victory – 3:15c
- God provides – Gen 3:21

Genesis

Sermon Reflection Questions

Sermon 9. Fallen...under the Curse

Genesis 3:7-24

These questions are designed to help individuals, families, and small groups dig deeper into our Genesis Sermon Series. Leaders: don't limit yourself to these questions or feel that you need to answer all of them. Pick and choose and create your own based on the needs of your group.

Observe & interpret the passages:

Read Genesis 3:7-24 and then list the following:

- all of the negative consequences that resulted from Adam and Eve's sin.

- all of the evidences of God's mercy and grace to Adam and Eve in chapter 3.

How has Adam's sin affected us according to Romans 5:12, 18-19, 7:14-15, 18-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Ephesians 2:1-3?

Apply it to your life:

Think back to a time when you gave in to sin. What were the consequences? Did you think about the consequences before giving in to temptation? Why or why not?

We all have particular sins that are especially tempting to us. Choose one of those sins and list at least ten specific reasons why you should not give in.

God graciously promises to forgive us of sin and cleanse us when we confess (read 1 John 1:9). Spend a few minutes confessing your sins to the Lord and thanking Him for the forgiveness that Jesus made possible on the cross.

Memorize: James 1:14-15

Additional Questions:

What is "sin" based on the following passages: Matthew 5:21-22,27-28; Romans 3:23; James 4:17; 1 John 3:4?

Both Adam and Eve sinned. So why does the New Testament only hold Adam responsible for bringing sin and death to the human race? See Romans 5:12, 18-19, 1 Corinthians 11:8-9, 15:22.

What other reasons does scripture give for avoiding sin?

John 15:8-11

Romans 6:1-4

Romans 6:15-16

Hebrews 12:6

1 John 1:5-7

Revelation 2:26-27

Any other passages you can think of?