

The Consequences of the Fall (Part 1)

Q. What happened to man in the fall?

A. Man fell into a condition of sin and misery.

(Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A #17)

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned

(Romans 5:12)

In our last devotional we took a look at the fact that when Adam, as our *“federal head”* (*spiritual team captain*), failed to fulfill the covenant of works by eating the forbidden fruit, his sin didn’t simply affect himself, it affected all of his descendants after him. Adam was the representative of the entire human race, and so when Adam fumbled, we all fell. The Westminster Shorter Catechism asks, *“What happened to man in the fall?”* and the answer is that *“man fell into a condition of sin and misery”*. In Genesis chapter 3 we see that immediately after Adam broke God’s covenant, sin and misery was the result. And the Bible teaches that the condition of sin and misery wasn’t true only for Adam, but is now the reality for each and every one of us who have inherited the original sin of our first parents Adam and Eve. The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 5:12 that, *“just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”* Over the next few days we will be studying the consequences of Adam’s fall in our world today, a fall that has brought every human being into a condition of sin and misery.

The first consequence of the fall that we find immediately after Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, was that they experienced a **loss of their innocence**. In Genesis 3:7 we read, *“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”* Notice what we see here in this verse: for the first time shame (*humiliation or embarrassment*) had entered into the world. Finding themselves in a post-fallen world, Adam and Eve are humiliated by their nakedness and attempt to reduce that humiliation by covering themselves up. Back in Genesis 2, prior to Adam’s fall into sin we read that after Adam and Eve had been created by God, *“they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”* (Genesis 2:25). You’ll remember that when God entered into the covenant of works with Adam, the Lord said, *“Of every tree*

of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:16). And while, by God’s grace, Adam and Eve didn’t *physically* die the moment they chose to sin in the Garden, they did in fact die *spiritually*. And the first consequence of their spiritual death were feelings of humiliation, embarrassment, discomfort and shame.

We live in a world today that has been plunged into a condition of sin and misery. We know all too well what it is like to experience feelings of discomfort, shame and humiliation. These feelings, while they are all too familiar to each of us in a post-fallen world, were not part of God’s original design for human beings. As Christians we long for the day when Jesus Christ will return in power and glory to reverse the curse of the fall, freeing us from all forms of shame and humiliation. Can you even imagine how wonderful it will be when we will experience a life free from embarrassment, free from regret and free from disgrace? As Christians we cry out with the Apostle John saying, *“Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”* (Revelation 22:20).

Dig Even Deeper into God’s Word!

Jeremiah 17:13

Isaiah 47:3

Psalm 31:17

Romans 10:11