

The Consequences of the Fall (Part 2)

Q. What is sinful about man's fallen condition?

A. The sinfulness of that fallen condition is twofold. First, in what is commonly called original sin, there is the guilt of Adam's first sin with its lack of original righteousness and the corruption of his whole nature. Second are all the specific acts of disobedience that come from original sin.

(Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A #18)

“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.”

(Psalm 51:5)

Yesterday we began our look at the many consequences of Adam's fall in the garden. As we've already seen, Adam's fall plunged this world and all of humanity into a horrible condition of sin and misery. In reading Genesis chapter 3 we find that the first consequence of Adam and Eve's sin was that they experienced the loss of their innocence. Whereas once they lived completely free and unashamed, being *“both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed”*, after sin had entered the world, so also came feelings of discomfort, shame, humiliation and embarrassment. In a post fallen world 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.”* (Genesis 3:7).

However, the fall not only brought about a loss of our innocence and the introduction of shame and humiliation between people, it also brought about a separation and an alienation from the God who created us. After Adam and Eve's fall into sin we read those heartbreaking words that, *“they heard the sound 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.”* (Genesis 3:8). Oh, how horrific is the reality of this verse! Before the fall, Adam and Eve enjoyed perfect fellowship and communion with God. As the old hymn goes, prior to the fall Adam and Eve could sing out, *“And He walks with me and He talks with me and He tells me I am His own. And the joy we share as we tarry there none other has ever known”*. However, no longer could that beautiful chorus be sung. Instead, as those who had committed an act of cosmic insurrection against a holy God, we now find Adam and Eve hiding from the presence of the Lord. That perfect fellowship had been broken. That perfect peace between God and man was now destroyed. It is here in Genesis 3:8 that we find, for the first time, human beings in a state of enmity (*hostility or war*) with God (Romans 8:7). And

while this must have been horrible for Adam and Eve, we can only imagine how much more infinitely heartbreaking this was for the Lord, the Creator of life (Genesis 3:9-11).

In tomorrow's devotional we will finish looking at the consequences of Adam's fall. But today, we need to pause and meditate on the reality that as descendants of Adam, we too share in the consequences of Adam's transgression. The doctrine of original sin teaches that each and every one of us are born into this world guilty of Adam's sin and therefore we share in those same consequences. Our catechism tells us that all human beings (*whether young or old*), share in "*the guilt of Adam's first sin with its lack of original righteousness and the corruption of his whole nature*". That means that each of us is born into this world guilty before a holy God. We are born into this world as covenant breakers who are in a state of enmity with God. We are those who hide from God. We do not, in our sinful human nature, seek after God (Romans 3:10-11). Instead, just as our first parents in the garden, we flee from the wonderful God who created us. On top of all of that, not only are we guilty of original sin, but as our catechism says, we are also guilty of "*all the specific acts of disobedience that come from original sin*". Human beings are not only guilty of Adam's first sin...we are also guilty for our own particular sins that we commit day after day.

Today, may we meditate on the words of the great hymn writer John Newton who once wrote, "*Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior.*"

Dig Even Deeper into God's Word!

Psalm 51:5

John 3:6

Romans 8:7-8

Ephesians 2:3