

The Consequences of the Fall (Part 3)

Q. What is the misery of man's fallen condition?

A. By their fall all mankind lost fellowship with God and brought His anger and curse on themselves.

They are therefore subject to all the miseries of this life, to death itself,
and to the pains of hell forever.

(Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A #19)

"The soul who sins shall die."

(Ezekiel 18:4)

In today's devotional we will finish our look at the many consequences of Adam's fall into sin. So far we've seen that the first consequence that Adam and Eve experienced after they ate the forbidden fruit was a loss of their innocence. Prior to the fall, Adam and his wife were "*both naked...and were not ashamed*" (Genesis 2:25). However, after sin had entered the world we are told that, "*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). When sin entered into this world, innocence was lost and shame reared its ugly head.

The second consequence of Adam and Eve's sin was man's separation and alienation from God. Immediately after our first parents sinned we read 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). The sweet communion and fellowship that Adam and Eve had enjoyed with God was shattered. No longer would human beings be born in a perfect, unmarred relationship with God. Instead, as we saw in yesterday's devotional, every human being is born, from conception onward (Psalm 51:5), at enmity (*war*) with God (Romans 8:7), running from Him, hiding from Him, and suppressing His truth (Romans 1:18-23).

As if the shattering of our relationship with God and the introduction of shame and humiliation weren't enough, we find one more consequence of Adam's fall in Genesis 3, that is, the consequence of pain, suffering and death. After God questioned Adam and Eve as to the reason for their sin, He pronounced a curse not only on Adam and Eve but on the entire world. The Lord said to Adam, "*Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of*

it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; For dust you are, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:17-19). Again, the Lord spoke to Eve saying, "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." (Genesis 3:16).

What were the results of Adam's fall into sin? Death and pain had entered into our world. Sorrow and suffering, earthquakes and famine, wars and plagues are not the result of God's good creation, they are the direct result of Adam's failure to obey the Lord. Adam and Eve, our first parents, willingly plunged our world into a state of sin, misery and death.

However, the good news is that our God is gracious, compassionate and merciful. And although we are great sinners, our God is an even greater savior. You see, not only did God curse Adam and Eve because of their sin, He also pronounced a curse on Satan, the one who tempted them. God told Satan, *"Because you have done this...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."* (Genesis 3:15). Here we find the promise that one day, the Lord would send a savior, born of a woman, who would crush the head of Satan and bring His people back into a state of holiness and communion with God. The promise of Genesis 3:15 found its fulfillment over 2,000 years ago when an angel spoke to a group of shepherds saying, *"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."* (Luke 2:10-11).

Dig Even Deeper into God's Word!

Ezekiel 18:4
Romans 5:12
Romans 6:23
Galatians 3:10