

## Genesis 3:1-24 — Sin

**October 4, 2015**

Have you noticed something is wrong, drastically wrong? The police are never unemployed. Hospitals are always full. We have to wait a month to get an appointment with a doctor because they are too busy. The military is the largest expense in our national budget because people around the globe want to kill us. Funeral directors have a recession-proof business. People keep dying. Every car comes with a lock. Every house comes with a key. We are constantly trying to protect ourselves from evil.

If you look at Fox News, it is depressing. It is a constant stream of conflict, pain, hatred, deception, divorce, chaos and disorder. Something has gone wrong. Life isn't supposed to be this way.

Today we will find out why.

If you are new, it is great to have you at CrossWinds. My name is Kurt. I am one of the pastors. We are studying the book of Genesis. When we studied Genesis 1, it showcased God's awesome power as he made the entire universe in only six days with simply his spoken word.

Last week, we looked at Genesis 2, which zoomed in on the creation of Adam and Eve on Day 6. We learned that God is not just incredibly powerful, but he is incredibly loving. Genesis tells us God carefully crafted Adam out of dust, like a master sculptor molds clay. After creating him God knelt down and kissed the breath of life into Adam's body. After creating Adam, God put him in the best place on earth, a place called Eden. It is also known as Paradise. In Eden, God

gave Adam an all-you-can-eat free fruit buffet from his own personal garden. God gave Adam a great job. God saved his best gift for last. He gave Adam Eve, a perfect wife. When Adam saw her it made him sing for joy. God is both incredibly powerful in the universe and incredibly loving toward us. The earth was a great place to be. It doesn't look like that today. Something went wrong. Drastically wrong. Genesis 3 tells us what happened.

Genesis 3 is one of the most important chapters in the Bible. If we don't understand this chapter, there is no way to make sense of all the pain and death in this world. If we don't understand this chapter, we also won't understand the only solution to the problems of this world.

In Genesis 3 we are about to meet the serpent. Revelation 12:9 and 20:2 tell us this serpent was more than just an ordinary snake. Behind the serpent, possessing the serpent, was an incredibly powerful spiritual being called Satan. Satan literally means adversary. Satan is a powerful spiritual being that set himself up as the enemy of God. Before we start in Genesis 3, let's learn a bit about God's enemy.

### **Where did Satan come from?**

The Bible tells us God did not create evil. When God finished creation, Genesis 1:31 says everything was good. Satan's fall into sin, and the beginning of evil, must have occurred sometime between the end of creation in Genesis 1:31 and Genesis 3:1, where we find ourselves this morning. Genesis is focused on Adam and Eve's fall into sin, so it doesn't give us the details of Satan's fall into sin. Ezekiel 28 is a passage that gives us a little insight on Satan's sin.

Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord God: “You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you. Ezekiel 28:12–17 (ESV)

These verses are a prophetic word spoken against the king of Tyre. The context makes clear the prophetic message reaches far beyond that earthly king to the supernatural source behind his wickedness. Satan was behind the evil of this king. Many theologians believe this text gives us a window into Satan’s origins.

Notice Satan was created as the epitome of perfection. He was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. Satan was once an angel, a guardian cherub. He may have been the highest cherub.

How sin arose in him is not explained. It simply says unrighteousness was found in him. Notice that Satan’s defect did not come from the way God created him. It came from within himself. Satan’s sin was not imposed on him by God. It was his own choice to rebel against God. The Bible doesn’t explain how this took place. It just tells us God is not the author of sin.

### **Why did Satan rebel?**

How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, “I will

ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit. Isaiah 14:12–15 (ESV)

This is a prophetic condemnation against the king of Babylon. Once again this prophecy addresses the demonic power behind the king of Babylon. The ESV calls this power the Day Star, son of Dawn. The King James uses the term Lucifer, which is another name for Satan. Apparently Satan was a bright shining angel. As bright as the morning sun. What went wrong? In a word, it was pride. Pride was his sin. He wanted to exalt his throne above all others and be like God. He intended to usurp God’s own throne.

Revelation 12:4 tell us that when Satan fell, he didn’t fall alone. He took a third of the angels with him. Today we call these fallen angels demons. Satan and his demonic horde were kicked out of heaven and their final doom is sure. According to Matthew 25:41, their doom is not in question. It is just as certain as God is faithful. While their doom is certain, God has not yet assigned them to their eternal resting place in the Lake of Fire.

### **Why didn’t God destroy Satan and his demons the moment they fell?**

The Bible doesn’t directly answer this question. God has apparently allowed the devil and his demons limited free reign<sup>1</sup> for a period of time because they somehow fit into God’s plan to show grace, mercy and salvation for us. They are part of God’s plan to demonstrate his eternal justice toward those who rebel against him and his plan to demonstrate his amazing undeserved love toward some of us that he chose to transform from his arch enemies into the

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<sup>1</sup> Job 1:6-12

most blessed and transformed beings in the universe through his son Jesus.

This is why God has not yet confined Satan and his demons to the Lake of Fire.

This is the same devil that stands behind the serpent in Genesis 3. With that background, let's jump into the text.

### **How did sin enter the human race and infect the world?**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" Genesis 3:1 (ESV)

The first thing I want you to notice is the word crafty. The serpent was crafty. Satan is sneaky. He is tricky. He is trickier than David Copperfield. He knows how to trick us. Satan is a serious adversary for two reasons. First, he is much smarter than we are. Second, he has been around much longer than we have. He understands us better than we understand ourselves. He understands our desires. He understands our wants. Satan is very smart and extremely crafty. Stay away from Ouija Boards and anything that deals with him. Be careful how you celebrate Halloween. Be careful what you watch on television and in movies. Satan loves to trick us. He is good at it.

Satan asks the first recorded question in human history. It is a Bible trivia question. He asks the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat from any tree in the garden?" CrossWinds Church, is that what God said? Did God say "You must not eat from any tree in the garden"? No!

That is not what God said. God said they could eat from any tree in the garden. There was only one tree to avoid, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This is part of Satan's strategy. He wants us to think God is mean and restrictive. The truth is just the opposite. Last week we saw that God is incredibly

kind and loving toward us. Remember he gave Adam and Eve the best of everything on the planet. There was only one tree on the entire planet to avoid. God is not incredibly restrictive! He is incredibly kind and loving. Satan wanted Adam and Eve to think God is out to ruin their lives. Nothing could be further from the truth. Satan wanted Adam and Eve to focus on the one thing they didn't have rather than all the good things they did have.

Isn't this the way Satan works today? When Satan tempts us, he tempts us to focus on the few things we don't have rather than all the good we do have. If you are a young adult tempted toward sexual sin, Satan wants you to focus on your loneliness. He wants you to be consumed by the thought that you are not married when your friends are married. He wants you consumed by your singleness. Satan wants you to forget all the other good things God brought into your life and focus on the one thing God hasn't given you in your life. You see how Satan works? It is all in Genesis 3.

Notice what the woman said to the serpent.

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Genesis 3:2-3 (ESV)

Here is another Bible trivia question. Is this what God said? Part of it was true. Part of it was false. This is just what Satan wants. He wants us to mix error into the truth. Did God say the first part? Yes. Did he say the last part? No. God didn't say, "Don't touch the fruit or you will die." The woman added that to God's words. She put something in there that God didn't say to make God appear more restrictive because she was starting to believe Satan's lie that God is incredibly restrictive. She wasn't representing the truth about God's character.

Don't we do the same thing? If your children has a friend over to the house and they are too noisy, you ask your son or daughter to be quiet. What does your child do? They run to the other parent and say you told them they can't have their friends over again. That isn't true. They added to your words. They made you appear more restrictive than you are.

If you are late a bunch of times for work and your boss calls you into his office to remind you that constant lateness is the kind of thing that can be grounds for termination, what do you say to your friends in the break room at work? You tell everybody the boss said he would fire you if you were late again. You added to his words. You made him appear more harsh than he is. We all do this. This is what Eve did to God's words. She added to them to make God appear more restrictive.

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:4–5 (ESV)

Then Satan went for the jugular. He called God a liar. John 8:44 tells us that Satan is a liar. He is the father of lies. He is the original spin doctor. Lies are his native language. When Satan calls God a liar, it is up to us to figure out who is telling the truth. The answer should be obvious, but just like Eve, we deceive ourselves into thinking Satan might be right. We deceive ourselves into thinking God is out to restrict us and ruin us while Satan is out for our freedom.

Just like Eve, each day we have a choice. Who do we believe is telling the truth — God who gives us restrictions out of love or Satan, the original liar?

This verse is the same situation we find ourselves in almost every day. God says some things are off limits. They are forbidden fruit. He says it is for

our good and out of his love. The question is, will we believe God, or will we believe Satan, who calls God a liar? God says, "Don't fornicate before marriage, because I love you. Save it for your wedding night." Satan says, "Have sex with anybody you want, just don't get a disease." God says, "Don't lie, cheat, steal, commit adultery, lust, or covet your neighbors stuff." Satan says, "Steal, if you won't get caught, because you need stuff more than the person you took it from." Satan says, "Don't tell the truth, as long as nobody else knows. What people don't know won't hurt them." Who are you going to believe? God, who tells us what is forbidden because it will hurt us, those we love and our relationship with God, or Satan, who tells us God is a liar? Enjoy yourself.

Notice how Satan put the icing on the cake of this temptation. He appealed to Eve's pride. He told Eve that God was holding her back. God was trying to keep her from actualizing her full potential, that God did not have her best interests at heart, he didn't want her to become all she could be. "He knows if you ate the forbidden fruit, you would become just like him. God wants to keep you down."

Exalting himself out of pride was Satan's original sin. He was trying to get Eve to fall to the same prideful temptation he did. Today, we cloak the sin of pride in veiled terms. We call it self-esteem. Satan is the one who tells us that if we had more pride in ourselves we would achieve greatness. Never mind being thankful for food, water, shelter, and family. Never mind being humble and thinking of others before yourself. You need to love yourself, be like Satan and become your own little god.



How does the story end? The woman talked herself into it. Maybe Satan was right. Maybe God is trying to hold me back. Maybe God doesn't want me to become all I can become. I need some pride, not humility. I need to think about myself instead of others. I can make my own rules. I can make my own decisions. I know what is best for me. I don't need to listen to God. I can become my own God. As you know, that kind of thinking does not end well.

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Genesis 3:6 (ESV)

The woman talks herself into it. She does the one thing she was told not to do. Then she gave some to her husband who was where? With her! The Hebrew is clear that Adam was with his wife the whole time this was taking place because every time Satan addressed Eve, he addressed her in the plural. Adam was with his wife. What was he doing to protect her? What was he doing to stop this? Nothing! He just watched her get deceived into sin.

Last week we learned Adam was given two jobs in the Garden. He was to be the gardener in the garden and the guardian of the garden. Adam failed as the guardian.

The Bible tells us Eve was deceived into sin.

...and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. 1 Timothy 2:14 (ESV)

Adam was different. He wasn't deceived into sin. He consciously chose to sin. When Adam saw his wife getting deceived, he should have guarded her. He should have protected her from deception. Instead he just watched her get tricked into sin.

Some of you guys are just like Adam at home. You don't protect your wife from sin. You don't protect her from deception. You just let your wife do what she wants and if she gets into trouble, it is her mess to clean up. Men, your job is to do what Adam was supposed to have done. Your job is to provide for your wife and family and protect your wife and family, not let your family get deceived into trouble.

One of the major sins of Adam was not providing leadership in his family and protection for his wife. That is the same sin many men fall into today.

The Puritans used to say, "When Adam was away, Eve went astray." That is not true. Adam wasn't away. Adam was there watching it happen. He laid on the couch with a bowl of Cheetos on his belly watching football while he watched his wife step forward to lead the family into sin because he was too lazy to get off the couch and do something about it.

We think there are two options in the home — the man leads the family or the woman leads the family. That is not what we see in Genesis 3. There is only one option. It is always the husband's responsibility to lead and protect his family.

Most women think that if their husbands aren't leading, it is their responsibility to do what Eve did, to take the lead and wear the pants. That is a problem. God created Adam's wife to be a helpmate for her husband, not to be the leader over her husband. Adam was given the responsibility of protecting his family and providing for his family. Women, if your husband isn't taking his leadership responsibility, don't take it from him. If you do, Satan will love it. That

is the same strategy he used to deceive Eve. Wives, instead of taking the leadership role in your family, tell your husband to step up to the plate, to be the man God called him to be, to be the leader in his home. This is a job that only he can do. These roles are not reversible.

Gentlemen, your wives want a strong courageous, masculine man. The main reason women lead in the home is because there is a vacuum of leadership. Many women provide home leadership because their husbands are either too lazy or too effeminate to do it. Men, don't be like Adam.

When Eve was tempted by Satan she needed Adam to stand up and say, "Wait a minute! Who do you think you are? You're are lying about my God. You're trying to deceive my wife. I love my God and I love my wife. I am going to protect both of them. I don't know who you are or where you came from but don't you dare try to trick my woman. I have dominion in this place. Get out of the garden right now!" Trust me. Eve would have loved that! But Adam did not do that. He sat on the sidelines probably stuffing his face with chips and salsa while watching sports on cable. Do you see the problem?

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. Genesis 3:7 (ESV)

The first thing that happens after sin is they separate themselves from one another. Before they were naked without shame, then they were naked with shame. Instead of sin bringing people closer together, it always tears them apart.

They realize they can't trust one another. They are vulnerable. It is time to grab a fig leaf and hide the real me. The rest of human history is the story of people grabbing fig leaves to hide the truth of who they really are.

We are constantly trying to find a way to hide ourselves from others. Today women spend a lot of money on expensive fig leaves. It is called a dress that makes them look 10 pounds lighter rather than reveal their true figures.

Church people wear fig leaves all the time. At church we tell everybody things are fine. We sing the songs. We smile in the parking lot and then go home in tears because we are so stressed that we can't sleep. Unfortunately, we hide the truth to our church family because we are afraid of sharing our pain. It would leave us feeling weak and vulnerable. That is what sin does. It makes us hide the truth.

### **What are sinful responses to sin?**

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." Genesis 3:8-10 (ESV)

How many of you see this as comical? Adam and Eve just sinned. They were using fig leaves, which is a pretty inefficient undergarment. Fig leaves don't even make it through one cycle in the washer. Then they were hiding behind a tree from the all-seeing, all-knowing, all-powerful God. Think about that plan.

Will hiding behind a tree help you hide from God? What Adam should have done is run to God in repentance, not hide from God and hope he wouldn't notice. While we laugh at Adam, don't we do the same thing?

What sin are you hiding from God and hoping he doesn't find out? Hiding our sin from God is just as silly as Adam hiding behind a tree. The kid that steals from the cookie jar but thinks nobody saw him isn't thinking clearly. God knows. God can see through walls. The woman that says, "I can gossip on Facebook

and on the phone since the people I am gossiping about are not on Facebook so they won't know," aren't thinking clearly. God has a universal Facebook account. He knows everything you post. He knows all about your life. He is reading your email. He's tapped into your phone. He even has access to Hillary Clinton's secret email server. It is pointless to try and hide our sin from God.

You see, we are just like Adam. We do these silly things. We think we can hide our sin from him when we should be running to him and confessing our sin. God knows everything. God knows your heart. He knows your mind. He even knows your imagination. That should scare us. When you sin, don't try and run from God and hide, like Adam did. Run to God to confess and repent, which is what Adam should have done.

While we have Adam and Eve hiding, God is seeking. Specifically God is seeking the man. Why do you think he is seeking Adam? God holds Adam responsible for the condition of his family. Who sinned first? The woman. Who did God call out first? The man. Why? He was the head of the home. He was responsible.

Husbands, we are responsible for the condition of our home before God. Some of you will claim the condition of your home is not your fault. It may not be your fault, but it is your responsibility. Men, if your kids are making sinful choices, it may not be your fault, but it is your responsibility to handle the situation. If there is no Bible reading and prayer in your home, whose responsibility is it to make a change? We live in a world where men do not like taking responsibility for themselves or their families. Men like to give excuses. When was the last

time you heard a politician say, “It’s my fault. I sinned. It is my responsibility”?

You don’t hear it.

He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Genesis 3:11–12 (ESV)

Adam should have said, “God, I am sorry. I sinned. It is my fault. I messed everything up. I should have been guarding the garden but I failed at my job. I repent. Please forgive me.” That is not what Adam said. He started blame shifting. Blame shifting is a sinful response to sin. Adam blamed Eve for his sin. He said his sin was her responsibility. “This woman was a great deal. She was a good cook and I loved the way she dressed around the house. Now she is cooking up forbidden fruit pie and wearing fig leaves. This woman is defective. God, I married the wrong woman. The right woman wouldn’t have done this. Eve was great until I married her. She brings out the worst in me. It is her fault.”

Doesn’t that sound familiar? This is the same excuse many guys make today. Men don’t take responsibility for their marriages and the problems in their marriages. Rather than leading their wives and protecting their wives, they blame their wives and then blame God for giving them their wives. “God, you messed up. This woman is defective. Take her back and give me a new model.” Remember that just one chapter before Adam was singing her praises. Then he thought everything was her fault. He was a wicked blame shifter. We do the same thing.

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.” Genesis 3:13 (ESV)

Eve was the first charismatic. She blamed the devil. She said, “The devil made me do it. It’s his fault.” Did the devil make her do it? No. She chose to sin. The devil tempted her. The devil deceived her, but Eve made the choice to sin.

It is wrong to blame the devil for your sin, to blame your spouse for your sin or to blame God for our sin. Whose fault is our sin? It is our fault. We are the problem. Until we admit our sin and take ownership of our sin we can never confess our sin and be forgiven of our sin.

### **What are the consequences of sin?**

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.**” Genesis 3:14–15 (ESV)

An offspring of Eve will crush Satan’s head. A good head crushing is a fatal wound. While Satan will hurt Eve’s offspring, in the end it will only amount to a bruising of his heel. The Hebrew is clear that this is speaking of a single male son of Eve that would eventually crush Satan’s head. Does anybody know his name? Jesus. Galatians 3:16-19 and Galatians 4:4 tell us this seed of Eve is Jesus. Was Jesus greatly injured by Satan? Yes! He was beaten beyond comprehension. He was crucified on a Roman cross. In his death, God the Father put on him all of our sin so Jesus died for our sin. The grave couldn’t hold him. Jesus rose from the grave conquering death. Ultimately, it was just a bruising, but for Satan, Jesus’ victory over sin was a head crushing.

Isn’t God so good to us? God promises to destroy Satan and rescue a part of the human race that Satan tried to destroy. God is so good.

To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." Genesis 3:16 (ESV)

As a result of sin, God curses the core roles of the wife. The first is motherhood. I remember Cindy giving birth to David. The epidural only worked on one side of her body. I have a very sweet wife but I learned it is not wise to get too close when she is giving birth. She was in some serious pain. Giving birth and rearing children is a great joy for a woman, but because of sin, it will also be extremely painful. The pain begins the moment they hurt mom as they come into the world and it lasts until they leave the house. You can thank Eve for all that pain. It came from her sin.

The other part of a wife's core role that is cursed from sin is her relationship with her husband. It says your desire will be for your husband. That is not talking about physical attraction. That is talking about desire for your husband's position of leadership in the home. A woman will get married and she will get frustrated with her husband because at times he will act like Adam and not provide leadership. He will not be courageous. He will sit idly on the sidelines. Ladies, you will be frustrated. You will want to take over and lead in his place.

Ladies, when you try to lead your husband, he won't be happy about it. There will be a constant struggle over who is in charge. Remember that all men are Adam and all women are Eve.

Ladies, how do you try to dominate and control your husband? Here are some ways ladies express the curse of sin and try to dominate their husbands. 1. They nag. If you nag enough, you can get a man to do almost anything.



Nagging is like nails on the chalkboard to the male psyche. 2. They get emotional. Yell, threaten, raise your voice, whine and just generally make everyone around you irritable. Most men run and hide in the garage at this point until the storm passes. 3. When nagging, yelling and whining don't work, they try crying. At that point the husband comes in to console his wife and she begins nagging and yell again. Most guys get so tired of this tennis match of verbal abuse that they just give up. Whatever it takes to make her happy! They will do whatever their wives want. They let her lead. For some women, this is the moment of victory. They win. They have power and control over their men.

Here is the problem. Ladies, if you dominate your husband and beat him into passivity you will not find yourself attracted to him. Deep inside you want a strong man to lead you and protect you. You don't want to be married to a little boy that cowers in the corner.

If you have beat your husband into submission, when you need him to be courageous, he will fold. Your husband will hide behind you for protection.

Gentlemen, your wife is attracted to a courageous, strong, masculine, biblically knowledgable man. A wife wants to know that if Satan and sin shows up at her doorstep, her husband won't be like Adam. He will stand up and protect his wife and home.

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.**"  
Genesis 3:17–19 (ESV)

The core role of a husband is also cursed. A husband was always to be a hard worker. With sin, work just became really, really hard. The ground was supposed to be under the dominion of Adam. Adam and Eve were on the free-fruit-for-life plan in the Garden of Eden. Once Adam sinned, they couldn't hang out in the garden. They couldn't eat from the Tree of Life. If they ate from the tree of life, they would live forever separated from God. God kicked Adam and Eve out of the garden. The earth also suffered from their sinful choice. Instead of the earth helping them survive, it fought against their survival. Adam had to work the ground. He had to plant, water, harvest, crush the grain and bake the bread. Every farmer has a job thanks to Adam's sin. This was all before combines and tractors, which are a gift of God. Farming is a lot of sweaty hard work thanks to Adam. Before sin, the ground gave us food for free.

As if the sweaty work wasn't enough, there are weeds and lots of them. Weeds grow in your corn and soybeans. Instead of the ground working with you, it fights against you, all because of Adam's sin. If you do nothing, the ground will take over. Isn't that the story of weeds? We don't ask for them but they just show up. The earth is fighting against us. Cancer, tornadoes, out of control pests, everything in this world keeps fighting against us trying to destroy us and force us back into the ground. This is all because of Adam's sin.

Adam and Eve wanted to be like God. That is why they ate the fruit. It seriously backfired. Instead of becoming like God, they became dirt. They became mulch. Adam and Eve, and each one of us, become as ungodlike as we can become. We turn into fertilizer. It doesn't happen all at once. Adam lived

another 930 years outside of the garden, but it did happen. It will happen to each of us.

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. Genesis 3:20–24 (ESV)

Adam named his wife. Notice that he named her because he had dominion over her. He could name her because he had authority over her just like he had authority over the animals. His wife was not an animal. She was his equal and his opposite. He was responsible to protect her and provide for her. Adam was the buck-stops-here guy in his home, just like men today in their homes. That is why he named her. He had authority over her.

This is also why the wife takes on the last name of a husband in a wedding. She agrees to come under her husband's authority and under his name. Ladies, if you plan on living an unbiblical life and not coming under the authority of your husband's protection and leadership, don't take his name when you marry him.

Notice what Adam named his wife. He named her Eve, which means life giver or birth giver. That is the name my kids use on their cell phones for caller ID when mom calls. The caller ID says Birth Giver. Why does Adam name her Eve? This is Adam speaking in faith that Eve would be the mother of all the living. They would have kids. One day one of her distant children would be the

one to crush Satan's head. Notice it was not one of Adam's distant children that would crush Satan but one of Eve's distant children. This is a forecast of the immaculate conception of who? Jesus.

God also killed an animal. This as the first death. God did it. He killed an animals to cover Adam and Eve in skin. It was the first sacrifice to cover the guilt and shame of sin. It was God giving Adam and Eve clothing. By the way, after sin entered the world people were not supposed to walk around naked.

Sometimes you hear people say we should go back to the Garden of Eden and walk around naked like Adam and Eve. Sorry, God is against nudist colonies. God is the guy who made the first clothes because now that we are sinners, it is appropriate to cover up. Incidentally, God didn't make a bikini for Eve and set of micro-briefs for Adam. The Hebrews word for garment means a tunic. It covers the upper body down to the knees. God says that because of sin we need to cover it up, not let it hang out.

Remember modest clothing is God's response to sin. Clothing that lets it all hang out is the devil's temptation to sin. If it doesn't cover anything up, chances are the devil was the designer.

### **Conclusion — Where are you?**

All men struggle like Adam, and all women struggle like Eve. We fall into the same sinful traps. Ladies can get tricked into sin when they live by their emotions and feelings. Men are often guilty of passivity and not protecting their wives and homes. When we sin, we love to blame God and each other rather than ourselves, which is where the guilt belongs. When we sin, we try to run and

hide from God, like Adam and Eve, rather than run to God confessing and asking for forgiveness.

All of the problems in our lives and in this world come from sin either done to us or done by us. The problem is always sin. The answer is always Jesus. He is the only way to fix the problem of sin.

Since Jesus is the only answer to the problem of sin, I have a question for you. It is the same question God asked Adam. Where are you? Where are you with Jesus? There are only two choices. Either you worship God through Jesus or you worship Satan. You are either going to heaven or going to hell. You are either living forgiven by Jesus or unforgiven in misery. You either believe God's truth or Satan's lies. Where are you?

Today, before we take communion, I want you to answer that question. Where are you with Jesus? Will you confess your sin to God, run to him and not hide from him. Will you trust Jesus to forgive your sin and be born again? If you make that choice, or if you have already made that choice, I invite you to take communion with us as we celebrate how God came to rescue us through Jesus from the huge mess that Adam and Eve first made in Genesis 3 and we remember how Jesus crushed Satan's head through his death. When it comes to Jesus, where are you?



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