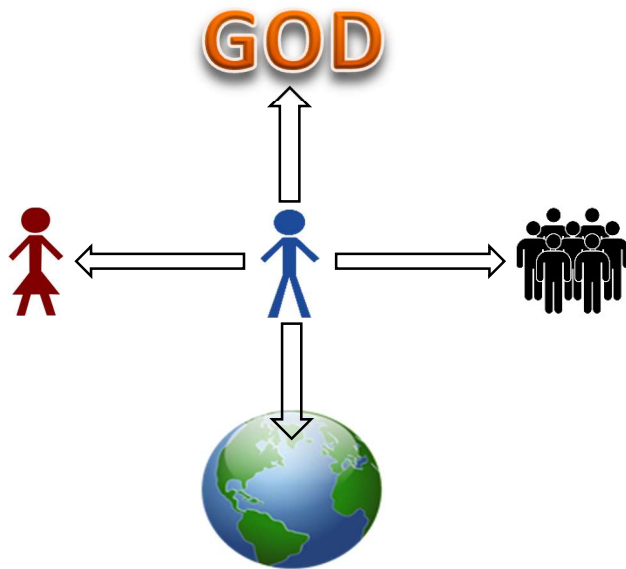


Genesis 3:8-24

# THE FALL ACCORDING TO GOD

The second part of Genesis 3 reports the effects of sin in the human race. It is therefore a natural extension of the first seven verses of the chapter... The structure of the unit leans on two pillars: an account of paradise gained (2:8-17) and an account of paradise lost (3:1-24). ...Whereas Adam and Eve had life, they now will have death; where they had pleasure, they now will have pain; where abundance, now a meager sustenance by toil; where perfect harmony with God and with each other, now alienation and conflict. The motifs in this chapter—toil, sweat, thorns, the conflict, the tree, death, dust, and the seed—all will be reflected in the experience of the Christ, who became the curse, sweat great drops of blood in bitter agony, wore a crown of thorns, hung on a tree until he was dead, and was placed in the dust of death (cf. Ps. 22:15). —Allen Ross

We are created in the image of God—male and female—divinely designed to love God and to love others; to reflect His glory to all creation; to enjoy the intimacy of marriage and family; to work, to create, and to rule over the earth as His representatives. But something has gone wrong...in our relationships, in our world, and in us.



**WE EXPERIENCE \_\_\_\_\_ AT THE DEEPEST LEVEL  
OF WHO WE ARE (3:7)**

- We \_\_\_\_\_ the things that are wrong with us.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ that we do not measure up.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ together “fig leaves” to cover our shame.

*Shame is the deep sense that you are unacceptable because of something you did, something done to you, or something associated with you... You feel like an outcast. You don't belong. You feel naked. You feel exposed and vulnerable. You are seen, and what others see is not pretty. You feel unclean. Something is wrong with you. You are dirty. Even worse, you are contaminated... The language of shame is extreme. Hear it enough and you believe it. You are told you are disgusting and unclean, and eventually you believe you are.*

—Dr. Ed Welch

*Why were they covering what they covered? First, they covered up the part of their bodies that was one of their most wonderful ways of expressing intimacy. Second, they covered up where they were most obviously different.*

—Scott Stanley

*Their spiritual death is revealed by their alienation from one another, symbolized by sewing fig leaves together for barriers, and by their separation from God, symbolized by hiding among the trees.*

—Bruce K. Waltke

**WE EXPERIENCE \_\_\_\_\_ FROM GOD (3:8-10).**

- In our basic nature, we do not run \_\_\_\_ God but \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
- *Why?* Because we are spiritually guilty and \_\_\_\_\_.
- *How?* By doing whatever we can to avoid direct confrontation with God and with our own sin.

**WE EXPERIENCE \_\_\_\_\_ IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER (3:11-13, 16).**

- In our self-justification, we choose to \_\_\_\_\_ others for our own choices, problems, and sins.
- In our self-absorption, we choose to \_\_\_\_\_ others in order to get our own way.

**WE EXPERIENCE \_\_\_\_\_ IN OUR BODIES, IN OUR WORK, IN OUR LIVES, AND IN OUR WORLD (3:17-19).**

- From pleasure to \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage, sex, and childbirth.
- From the blessing of God to the \_\_\_\_\_ of corruption on the earth (cf. Romans 8:18-23).
- From fruitfulness to \_\_\_\_\_ in our work.
- From life to \_\_\_\_\_.

**YET BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE, WE STILL HAVE HOPE!**

- We have hope in the promise of God (3:15, 20).
- We have hope in the provision of God (3:21).
- We have hope in the protection of God (3:22-24).

*God's questions, of course, were not to obtain information, but rather to encourage Adam and Eve to acknowledge and repent of their sin.* —Henry M. Morris

*This is characteristically human: people are inclined to justify their conduct by pointing to the circumstances and fate that God has allotted to them in life.*

—Umberto Cassuto (1883-1951)

*Self-justification is the prime suspect in the murder of a marriage. Each partner resolves the dissonance caused by conflicts and irritations by explaining the spouse's behavior in a particular way. Those who travel the route of shame and blame will eventually begin rewriting the story of their marriage. As they do, they seek further evidence to justify their growing pessimistic or contemptuous views of each other.*

—Carol Tavris & Elliot Aronson

*The woman's urge is not a craving for her man whatever he demands but an urge for independence, indeed a desire to dominate her husband.* —Susan Foh

*Under the curse, those who were created to be one flesh will find themselves tearing each other apart.* —Gordon J. Wenham

*Men's self-esteem is linked to personal achievements and success, while women's self-esteem is most contingent on connections and attachments to loved ones.*

—*Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 63:391-402 (1992)

*God does for the couple what they cannot do for themselves. They cannot deal with their shame. But God can, will, and does.*

—Walter Brueggemann