

DOCTRINE OF SIN, PART 4

Consequences of Sin and the Cure for Sin

1. CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

A. FALL OF LUCIFER

Lucifer was the first sinner, and due to his pride, he and one-third of the angels that revolted with him were immediately cast down from Heaven. And he lost his position as an anointed angelic being.

In the same way that God did NOT create sin, **God did NOT create the devil, but He created Lucifer who became the devil.** Because Lucifer led a prideful rebellion against his Creator, it resulted in his present-day and degenerated condition as Satan. **Satan means “hateful accuser, adversary, opposer.”** Even his other title as the **devil means “slanderer.”** And in Genesis 3, when God pronounces His judgment on the devil for his sin, we find a Scripture in the early chapters of the Bible that prophetically speaks of the coming of the Savior:

GENESIS 3:15 ESV

15 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.”

This passage foretells the death and resurrection of Jesus in that He will be **bruised on the heel.** And it prophesies the victory of Christ by crushing the head of Satan through the cross. **This all-important verse is what scholars describe as the first Gospel.** In dealing the final blow to Satan, God will one day rid Himself and His people of the devil by casting him into the lake of fire for all eternity.

REVELATION 20:10 ESV

10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

B. FALL OF MAN

Throughout Genesis 3, immediately after Adam and Eve eat of the fruit, we can see the rippling consequences of their sin.

GENESIS 3:7-8 ESV

7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. 8 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.

Because of sin, there was now separation of man from God. Because of this separation, creation for the first time felt exposed to **guilt, fear, and shame.** Notice in verse 8, **they hid themselves.** And we still see those same effects of sin upon us today. When we do something that we know is wrong, our gut reaction is like Adam and Eve to hide and cover up. **We try to deal with our bad by putting up a false image of ourselves to hide our own “nakedness.”**



GENESIS 3:12 ESV

12 The man said, "The woman **whom You gave to be with me**, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

Adam only needed to say, "Yes." or "I ate." to God's questions, but he first points fingers not only to Eve but also to God himself. Sin leads us to play the blame game to preserve our own image.

"Sin is a spiritual and moral malignancy. Left unchecked, it can spread throughout our entire inner being and contaminate every area of our lives. Even worse, it often will "metastasize" from us into the lives of other believers around us. None of us lives on a spiritual or social island. Our attitudes, words, and actions, and oftentimes even our private unspoken thoughts, tend to have an effect on those around us."

– Jerry Bridges, *Respectable Sins*

And the ultimate consequence of sin is death. **Death is defined by "separation."**

GENESIS 3:19 ESV

19 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."

When Adam and Eve partook of the tree, **two deaths occurred**. Man immediately died spiritually, in which their relationship with God was broken. And man continues to die physically over time.

And both of these deaths can be defined as "separation." It is this separation that leads to all the other consequences of sin. In the Garden, Creator and creation faced one another in fellowship. But when sin entered the world, Creator and creation turned away from one another.

Consequences of sin upon man:

- Spiritual death - man's separation from God
- Guilt
- Shame
- Fear
- Attempting to cover up
- Attempting to hide
- Blaming one another
- A life of hard labor
- Pain in childbirth
- Sorrow
- Physical death - separation of the soul from the body

In where God and man were turned away from one another because of sin, **God, through Christ, turned His face toward man**. It meant that He could no longer rest as He did when creation was completed. It meant that He began his second and greatest work, that of REDEMPTION.

2. CURE FOR SIN

Sin always causes sickness, suffering, separation, and sorrow. The cure for sin is Christ on the cross. And we see a foreshadowing of this again in Genesis 3:

GENESIS 3:21 ESV

21 And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

These “garments of skin” were God’s provision to symbolize restoring Adam and Eve’s fellowship with Himself by covering the “nakedness” they felt. Although we are not specifically told so, this passage implies that an innocent animal had to die to clothe Adam and Eve. And that is where we see the first example of the innocent dying for the guilty.

ROMANS 6:23 ESV

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:22 ESV

22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

We who were once in Adam can now be found in Christ **by grace through faith**. And the Good News is that consequences of sin have already been paid for by the unfathomable love displayed on the cross.

*“Grace is God loving, God stooping, God coming to the rescue,
God giving himself generously in and through Jesus Christ.”*

– John Stott

Our finite minds may never be able to comprehend how wide and long and how high and deep is the love of Christ. And this love where we can put our faith in. Christ has already conquered sin and the grave, so we no longer have to obey its passions and desires.

ROMANS 6:5-8 ESV

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. From your own experiences, how do you feel when you know you messed up or did something wrong?
2. In your own life, how have you noticed the Gospel transforming your own heart, desires, thoughts, and actions?