



What the Bible Says to Men Pt 2: Weaknesses and Susceptible Sins

June 11, 2023

Holy Text: Genesis 3:1-19 (Emphasis on verses 6, 9-12, and 17-19)

Last week, we learned:

1. Man was built for dominion.
2. Therefore, a man needs a mission. "A man without a mission will suffer emotionally, spiritually, and even physically. He'll either shrivel up and become a shell of who he is supposed to be or misuse and direct his strength toward his lusts, violence, or power."
3. Man's purpose is assigned and regulated by God.
4. Adam had a dominion purpose before Eve was created.
5. Adam's purpose was the context wherein his need for a helper was identified.
6. Man's headship is exercised in a dominion context.
7. Manhood is designed for advancing and battle: "Holy aggression!"

The Federal Headship of Adam

1. Federal Headship, in a broad sense, is the position that the male represents his descendants. In the case of Adam, he was the federal head of mankind in that he represented mankind in the fall. We were "in him," in his seed. When he fell, we fell "in him."¹
2. When Adam ate (Gen 3:6), men fell into sin.

Romans 5:12 (KJV) *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

3. After the transgression and fall, God did not call Eve; He called Adam. (v.9) This is an issue of headship and authority. So many mock it or misunderstand it. With it comes great responsibility. Beloved, God still calls and holds men accountable today!
4. Adam was afraid of God and hid. (v.10) In addition to the below, this is another propensity with which men can struggle: bailing out of a situation instead of seeking out and facing the consequences.
5. Again, why did God call Adam and not Eve? Because Adam was responsible. (v.11) God had commanded Adam not to eat from the Tree. (v.11; Gen 2:17) Adam was held accountable for the disobedience of his household.
6. Adam told the truth in verse 12, but it does sound like a vain attempt to either blame Eve or God Himself! This woman You gave me!
7. God was having none of it. Both Eve and the serpent received their punishments, and so did Adam.
8. Particularly, the LORD pointed out Adam's transgression in the context of listening to Eve instead of His Commandment, and cursed Adam with a life of very difficult work terminated by death. (vv. 17-19).
9. Just as the other curses remain until this day, so does Adam's (man's). Man must work to live. Work will be difficult and ongoing until he returns to the ground. Death comes for us all.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 (KJV) *For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*

¹ <https://carm.org/women-in-ministry/is-adam-our-federal-head/>

Hebrews 9:27 (KJV) *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

10. Thanks be to God for His love and mercy in Christ!

Romans 5:17-21 (NLT) *For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. 18 Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. 19 Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous. 20 God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. 21 So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 (KJV) *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Five Weaknesses and Sins to which Men are Particularly Prone:

In line with our goals for this series...

1. To Encourage God's sons to wage the good warfare for Him.
2. To Equip and Edify men to stand on Scriptural truth in a time where true masculinity is hated.
3. To Extol and Exalt the LORD who is glorious in His Truth!

...our desire is for CRC Men to realize areas where we are weak and prone to sin, and, by God's grace, shore up those weaknesses and resist those sins. So much depends on men! The devil knows this too! Let's go!

1. Passivity/Not Paying Attention

Returning to the Garden, there are two schools of thought on where Adam was while Eve was conversing with the serpent. Some say he was with her, others say he was not. Both are orthodox positions. I lean towards the "with her" school of thought for two reasons:

1. Because Gen 3:6 says "with her."

Genesis 3:6 (KJV) *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

Genesis 3:6 (NLT) *The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give*

her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.

2. Because the Text could have said, “and gave also unto her husband; and he did eat.” Why would the Holy Spirit ensure “with her” would be His Text if Adam wasn’t there? When Eve handed Adam a piece of fruit, he obviously would have been with her to grasp it, so such an addition would not have been needed. The “with her” actually stands out as it emphasizes Adam’s passive presence during the proceedings. Adam was not tempted; he was passively disobedient.
- However, there are good lessons for men in this passage, regardless of which way one views it.
 - If *Adam was there* when Eve was being tempted, all godly men, as his sons, should be aware of our tendency to be **Passive**.
 1. How passive would one have to be to 1) Know God commanded that the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was not to be eaten, 2) See your woman talking to a snake who was obviously tempting her, 3) Allow her to eat, and finally 4) Eat thereof yourself?
 2. What stopped Adam from obeying God, rebuking the serpent, and checking His wife? It’s not like he didn’t know better.
 3. Recall:

***1 Timothy 2:14 (KJV)** And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*

4. Brethren, you will be tempted to be sinfully passive like Adam. If you yield, much evil can happen: to you, to your family, and to the church.
5. The “path of least resistance” isn’t a metric by which a godly man makes a decision. Rather, we must hold to what is right, as God defines right, regardless of personal cost.

***James 4:17 (KJV)** Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

***Revelation 3:15-16 (KJV)** I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. **16** So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

- If *Adam was not there* when Eve was being tempted, all godly men, as his sons, should be aware of our tendency to **Not Pay Attention**.
 1. Adam was given dominion. This included stewardship over the garden wherein he was placed by God. (Gen 2:15)
 2. In this case, somehow, he missed 1) The nature and character of the serpent, 2) the weakness of Eve in this area, and 3) The whole conversation!
 3. This is akin to husbands/fathers missing the entrance and presence of unbiblical ideas and mindsets creeping into their homes, and infecting their wives or children.

4. How many times has the enemy done damage to the worldview of a home which catches the “protector” off guard? How many divorces has this caused? How much chaos in the local church? How many children lost to the world?
5. Brethren, PAY ATTENTION. Know what is happening in “your garden.”

1 Peter 5:8-9 (KJV) *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

2. Pride

Proverbs 29:23 (KJV) *A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

- Like we said when encouraging our sisters in Biblical Womanhood, both men and women can be susceptible to the same sorts of weaknesses and sins. So it's not that women aren't prideful. Every human is!
- Scripture however, does warn men over and over, and for good reason.

Isaiah 2:11-12 (KJV) *The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. 12 For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:*

Proverbs 18:12 (KJV) *Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.*

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (KJV) *Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: 24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.*

1 Corinthians 3:18-20 (KJV) *Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. 20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.*

- Because of the role that men have been given (heads of homes, leaders of churches, etc), men must take care to carry ourselves with great humility lest we become puffed up.

3. Lust

- Men are attracted to physical beauty. God created men to greatly respond to visual stimuli. Men's bodies produce greater testosterone. In a godly context, all these things are good and are a part of men's dominion purpose.
- Outside of God's purposes however, these things are used by the world, the flesh, and the devil. God warns men consistently to control his eyes and his body:

Matthew 5:27-30 (KJV) *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. 29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. 30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.*

Job 31:1 (NLT) *"I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust at a young woman.*

Proverbs 6:23-26 (KJV) *For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: 24 To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. 25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. 26 For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.*

James 1:14-15 (KJV) *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

- Most men must declare war in this area and fight it to the death every single day. Seriously. (Heb 12:4) Men, do not underestimate this sinful weakness!

Proverbs 7:24-27 (KJV) *Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. 25 Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. 26 For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. 27 Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.*

Practical helps:

- Realize you are not immune to eye/heart lust
- Pray before you engage the day
- Pray "in the moment" of temptation
- Learn to "bounce" your eyes (raise shields!)
- Beware of media. Think ahead before you watch, read, or click!
- Fast as needed to break a pattern of sin!
- Be accountable to someone
- Remember Christ and His Gospel!

4. Fear

- We mentioned last week that men sometimes greatly struggle with fear. Here are common areas:
 - Fear of failure
 - Fear of conflict
 - Fear of spiritual things
 - Fear of loss
 - Fear of women
 - Fear of embarrassment

- Fear is ultimately a loss of confidence in God. We need courage!
- “In Hebrew, the word *courage* means “to be alert, physically and mentally, and then to establish, fortify, harden, increase, prevail, strengthen (oneself), or to make strong.” Encouragingly, nowhere in the definition is a total absence of fear. Courage manifests “in spite of” and overcomes fear! Because of the tendency towards fear, believers need consistent *encouragement*. However, this word does not mean to make feel better like “comfort” or “soothe.” Webster (1828) defines *encouragement* this way: “To give courage to; to give or increase confidence of success; to inspire with courage, spirit, or strength of mind; to embolden; to animate; to incite; to inspirit.” **Biblical Courage is the ability to hold fast to God’s Word, repent in the event of failure, and continue on in obedience, regardless of the circumstances.**”²
- Scripture offers such encouragement!

Joshua 1:6-7 (KJV) *Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. 7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.*

Isaiah 41:10 (KJV) *Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*

- Men, as leaders, if we cower or wilt under the spiritual and cultural pressure, what happens to our stewardship and households?
- The puritan minister John Flavel said:

Many of our sinful fears flow from Satan's influence upon our imaginations. I do not doubt that he has, by God's permission, a great deal of influence upon peoples imaginations and passions.

*If this assenting act of faith is weakened in the soul, if the invisible seems to be uncertain in the visible seems to be the only reality, then it is no wonder that we are frightened when visible and sensible comforts are threatened—as they often are in this changing world. The person who is not thoroughly persuaded that he stands upon firm ground will be afraid to stand his ground.*³

- **Stand your ground men! Trust the LORD!**

5. **Lack of Discipline/Self-Control**

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (KJV) *Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth*

² The Courageous Series, Calvary Reformation Church, beginning May 1, 2022

³ John Flavel, *Triumphing over Sinful Fear*, 2011.

the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

- Paul wrote to Titus to command the men to be “sober” and young men to be “sober minded.” (Titus 2:2,6) Both terms carry the connotation of being temperate or “self-controlled.”
- Paul himself “disciplined” his body (1 Cor 9:27 ESV, NLT) and brought it under subjection in order to run the race to win...to receive the prize!
- If (and this is a big IF) a man can take control (by God’s grace) of his time, his impulses, his money, and his energy and effort to focus over time, there is little he cannot accomplish.
- Like Paul, a man must “strive for the mastery” (1 Cor 9: 25) over himself and “run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing.” (1 Cor 9:26 NLT)
- Remember, man’s dominion will require very hard work. The ground will not easily yield its fruit!
- Discipline and perseverance in such circumstance is required!

Final thoughts:

Brethren, to overcome passivity, pride, fear, lust, and the lack of discipline, a man must:

- Repent and believe in Christ
- Embrace the call to steward all things for Christ’s glory (dominion)
- Accept the call to lead
- Realize that many depend upon him
- Humbly and daily trust the LORD

May the LORD use CRC (and thousands of other churches) to raise up men who will do these things with love and zeal.

In Jesus’ Name!