

## **GENESIS: The Book of Beginnings - Week 5**

**Passage:** Genesis 3:7–24

**Related texts:** Romans 5:12; Romans 8:20–21; Ephesians 6; 1 Corinthians 15:55–57

### **1) Setting the Context**

**Quick recap:**

- Genesis 1–2: God creates; declares creation “very good.”
- Genesis 3: The Fall introduces sin into human experience and into creation’s order.

**Definition:**

- **Consequence** = result/effect of an action or condition (often negative in this context).

### **2) Read the Text**

Read aloud: **Genesis 3:7–24**

**Observation prompts:**

- What immediate changes occur after sin (vv. 7–13)?
- What judgments/curses are spoken (vv. 14–19)?
- What actions does God take (vv. 20–24)?

### **3) Immediate Effects After Sin (Genesis 3:7–13)**

#### **A) Shame and Covering (v. 7)**

- “Eyes opened” leads to awareness of **nakedness** → **shame/guilt**.
- Fig leaves represent a human attempt to **cover** what sin exposed.

#### **B) Hiding and Fear (vv. 8–10)**

- The relationship shifts from open fellowship to **fear** and **avoidance**.
- Key statement: “I was afraid... so I hid.”

### **C) Deflection and Blame (vv. 11–13)**

- Adam: blames the woman and indirectly God (“the woman you gave me”).
- Eve: blames the serpent (“deceived me”).  
**Pattern:** Sin often produces **avoidance of accountability**.

**Discussion:** What do these first reactions reveal about how sin affects:

- self-perception
- relationship to God
- relationship to others

## **4) Five Consequences of the Fall (Genesis 3:14–24)**

### **1) Spiritual Warfare (vv. 14–15)**

- “Enmity/hostility” introduced between the serpent and the woman, and between their offspring.
- This introduces the ongoing reality of **spiritual conflict**.  
**Cross-reference:** Ephesians 6 (spiritual battle not against flesh and blood).

**Key truth:** The conflict is real, but Genesis 3:15 already hints at God’s ultimate victory.

### **2) Pain in Childbearing (v. 16a)**

- Includes physical pain and broader burdens connected to bearing/raising children.
- Links to the original purpose to “multiply” now marked by difficulty.

**Discussion:** How does the Fall turn what was designed for blessing into something often experienced as burden?

### **3) Relational Conflict (v. 16b)**

- The harmony of Genesis 2 is disrupted:
  - desire for control (often expressed as competition)
  - rule/domination (often expressed as misuse of authority)
- Important note: This is **descriptive**, not God's ideal.

**Discussion:** Where do we see the Fall's effects on relationships beyond marriage (friendships, leadership, community)?

#### **4) Death and Decay (vv. 17–19)**

Two dimensions are emphasized:

##### **A) Creation's decay**

- Work becomes painful toil; the ground produces thorns and thistles.
- Creation is subjected to corruption.  
**Cross-reference:** Romans 8:20–21.

##### **B) Humanity's mortality**

- “Dust you are... to dust you will return.”
- Human life becomes marked by decline, sickness, and death.

**Discussion:** How does this passage help explain suffering without claiming suffering is “good”?

#### **5) Separation from God (vv. 22–24)**

- Banished from Eden; access blocked (cherubim/flaming sword).
- This is the deepest consequence: **loss of full, unhindered presence.**

**Doctrine connection:** Romans 5:12 — sin enters through one man; death spreads to all.

**Discussion:** Why is separation from God presented as worse than the other consequences?

### **5) Three Glimmers of Grace in Genesis 3**

Genesis 3 is dark, but it is not hopeless.

### 1) The Pursuit of God (vv. 8–9)

- God comes near and calls, “Where are you?”
- God initiates engagement rather than abandoning humanity.

**Discussion:** What does God’s question accomplish (not for information, but for restoration)?

### 2) The Promise of God (v. 15)

- Often called the **protoevangelium** (“first gospel promise”).
- A future offspring will be wounded but will ultimately crush the serpent.

**Bridge to Christ:** This anticipates the Messiah’s victory through suffering.

**Discussion:** What does it teach that grace appears *inside* judgment?

### 3) The Protection of God (vv. 21–24)

- God replaces fig leaves with garments of skin (v. 21): better covering than self-made covering.
- God prevents eating from the Tree of Life in a fallen state (vv. 22–24):
  - Not only judgment, but mercy—preventing eternal life in a broken condition.

**Discussion:** How can discipline and protection coexist in God’s character?

## 6) Big Themes to Carry Forward

- Sin produces: **shame, fear, blame, conflict, decay, separation.**
- God responds with: **pursuit, promise, provision, protection.**
- The Bible’s storyline moves from Eden lost → Eden restored (through Christ).

## 7) Questions to Consider

1. Which immediate effect after sin stands out most: shame, hiding, fear, blame? Why?
2. Of all the consequences, which one most shapes daily life in the modern world?
3. How does Genesis 3:15 change the tone of the chapter?
4. Why might God's banishment from the garden include mercy?
5. What is the difference between "self-made coverings" and God's covering?

## **Closing Thoughts**

- Confession: the reality of sin and its effects
- Gratitude: God's pursuit and promise
- Hope: Christ's victory and restoration
- Wisdom: to live faithfully in a fallen world with confidence in God's grace