

**Genesis 3: 14-16; “The Consequences of Eve’s Fall”, Sermon # 10 in the series -
“Beginnings”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on November 14th, 2004,
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The consequences of Adam and Eve’s sin, which were spoken to them by God Himself, were words which affected every area of their lives. And these words also affect our lives today. These words of God affected them so very radically, that God was the only one who could undertake the beginnings of their being brought back into His favor again. Sin always ruins the good things which God brings to us. Only God’s grace in Christ can restore what was lost. Since they had lost their original righteousness, they had lost all power and ability to do what He would command them to do spiritually. Even their inclination to do His will had been affected.

Today we want to begin the study of the implications of sin for this first couple; Adam and Eve. The important question that we want to consider is this,” In what areas of our lives are the consequences of Adam and Eve’s sin seen today?” What has God ordained as judgments upon Adam and Eve’s sin which affect you and me today? And, as I explain these consequences to you, we also want to ask, how has God chosen to show mercy to all believers in Jesus Christ, even in the midst of these judgments?

Let me set forth for you the 3 major areas of our lives where the consequences of Eve’s sin are seen and worked out today. 1st – The Consequences to a woman’s labors in relation to having children. 2nd - The Consequence of Eve’s desire to act independently of her husband’s rule. And 3rd – The Consequential Action of God - The precious promise of what God would do for the woman and through the woman.

1st – The Consequences to a woman’s labors in relation to having children.

You see this is verse 16 - “To the woman, He said; ‘I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” It does not appear that there would have been either sorrow or pain in childbearing at all, if Eve had not sinned. The fact that Eve represented every woman in her sin is indicated by the Biblical description of her as “the woman” all the way through this passage until verse 20. There, her name is mentioned for the first time, the name that Adam gave her because, “she was the mother of all the living”.

Bearing children would have been a joyful experience from conception to birth, had Eve not sinned. Now, we know, that the truth of Jesus’ words in John 16: 21 are fulfilled many times in the birth of any child,” A woman when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.” The sorrows of many women down through history have been greatly multiplied in the bearing of children.

Notice that it says, ”I will multiply your sorrow”. God brought to women this consequence of Eve’s sin. That which would have been easy and painless, now becomes difficult and sometimes deadly. If you will turn over with me to Genesis Chapter 30, you will be able to see an example of this. In verse 1 we see a woman for whom childbearing was going to involve much sorrow, multiplied sorrow. It says that when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister and said to Jacob, ‘Give me children, or else I die!’” Little did she know what God would do in her case. In some significant ways, I believe she is a fulfillment of the verses that we are studying this morning.

You should take note of the fact, ladies, that God takes a good long look at the motives and the desires of every woman, when it comes to this area of childbearing. In chapter 29, verse 30 it says,” Then Jacob also went into Rachel, and he loved Rachel more than Leah. (He had been given Leah instead of Rachel, for his wife, having been tricked into it, by Laban). And so he served with Laban still another seven years. But, when the Lord saw that Leah was unloved, He

opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.” Now this is not saying to us that God opens the wombs of those women who are unloved, and shuts the wombs of the women that are. It is saying to us that God certainly knows how to deal with each and every person’s sin. He knew how to deal with Jacob’s sin, Leah’s sin, and Rachel’s sin. Jacob was a trickster, so God ordained and providentially ordered the circumstances where Laban would trick him out of his getting Rachel for his wife. He did this because Jacob had tricked his brother out of his birthright and his blessing.

In Psalm 18, verse 26, we find the reason for God’s doing this. It says there: “With the pure You will show Yourself pure; and with the devious You will show yourself shrewd.” God does reward each person according to their works. Well, God opened Leah’s womb first because he saw that she was unloved; but then later He had her stop bearing after 3 sons, because she fell into the sin of using her childbearing as a means of commanding greater love and respect from her husband.

Leah then looked down on Rachel, because she had no children. Rachel had the sin of envy working in her heart. She actually gave her maid Bilhah to Jacob as wife, so that she could compete with her sister for her husband’s respect and love. This caused Leah to give both of her maids to Jacob to have relations with them, so that she could compete with Rachel for the pre-eminence in Jacob’s affections, and thus to have more children when she saw that she had stopped bearing. Obviously there were many sins at work in their hearts. Let us understand that God deals with all the sins of His Elect people; not to punish them, but to teach them His holy way. He is merciful in the midst of all of this teaching.

In verse 22, it says, “Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.” Will you not remember, dear ladies of our congregation, that it is God who gives children, it is He that opens the womb? Why do we try to fight God’s providence over our lives, His sovereignty over the womb? Why do we try so hard to get what God can so easily give? “Where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there,” it says in James 3:16. Rachel called her first son, Joseph, because his name means, “the Lord shall add to me another son.” Even here, she is not really satisfied. She wants another son. She will get another one, but she will die doing it.

In Genesis 35: 16-19 we see Rachel laboring in childbirth again, and her labor it says was hard. She died in this birthing process, and as her soul was departing, she called his name- Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin. Ben-Oni means son of my sorrow, but Benjamin means son of my right hand. Sorrow in childbearing is the consequence of Eve’s sin in the garden. But sorrow is always a consequence of any sin, the deep disappointment that we cannot get our way without God’s blessing and approval. What sorrow, what pain, what death come from sin, as its consequence.

The 2nd major area where the consequences of Eve’s sin are seen and worked out today is related to - Eve’s desire to act independently of her husband’s rule.

It says in verse 16b, “Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” We have seen in our last sermon that it was because of the strategies of Satan; his questioning Eve in regard to the truth of God’s word, and following it up with an outright lie to her that she would not die if she ate of the fruit of this tree; this was what deceived Eve into thinking that somehow God had kept something good back from her. The Devil was encouraging her to act independently of her husband rule over her. He would convince her that when she would act independently of Adam’s rule, in this case it was Adam’s word to her of what God had said was the right thing to do; this would be the way that she could be obtain wisdom on her own.

Notice the order established by God; He gave to Adam His word concerning not eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Then God created Eve from Adam’s rib. Then Adam had instructed his wife concerning God’s will. This is still the order today in marriage, even

though in Christ all true freedom and liberty of conscience is restored. Christ is the head of the man, and the man is the head of woman. Her acting independently of her husband's gentle rule was the beginning of Eve's sin, and in doing so, she was deceived into thinking that eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would bring her to a greater God-likeness. This was the great danger that has been passed down to all women ever since that time, by Eve's sin. The tendency to want to believe that thinking and acting independently of her godly husband was wise.

The beginnings of the women's liberation movement were not in the late 1960s. They are found here in the Garden of Eden. Today, the knowledge of the Bible, as something to be imparted by godly husbands to wives is largely disdained, even by many Christians. Where lies Eve's problem? Well let's think about this again. She thought that if this serpent had this extra knowledge, that if he appeared to know that God had withheld something good from them, then certainly she could find out for herself. She didn't need Adam's help in this matter. She was no dummy. She could evaluate this just as well, or better than Adam.

This same kind of reasoning regularly takes place in the minds of many fallen and unsaved women in our day, and even some in the Church. They would be the leaders among men and women, but they will not follow the instructions of the Word of God in their particulars. They do not need godly husbands to guide them into the truth. They do not necessarily need a man as a pastor. But these women know themselves to be just as smart and just as capable. Therefore, for them, equality is the issue. But this way of a woman's seeking to think and act independently of her husband's rule should not be the goal and pursuit of a godly Christian woman. What should it be?

Turn with me over to 1 Timothy 2, verse 8. Here the Apostle Paul speaking in the context of instructions on how public worship is to be conducted in the local church, says to Timothy: "I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works." "Let a woman learn in silence with all submission." "And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence." "For Adam was formed first, then Eve." "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into the transgression."

I hope that you can see here, that the goal and pursuit of a godly Christian woman is the right kind of submission, to Christ and to her husband. Paul would have the men in the assembly of the saints to pray publicly, but the women he would have learn in silence with all submission. He would not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. And the reasons that he gives for this are two. 1st – The order of nature; Adam was formed first, and then Eve. And then, 2^{ndly} – The danger of deception in the woman, based upon Eve's fall in the beginning. "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression."

Let me ask you, dear ladies in the congregation today, if you are content to be submissive to the Lord's Word here in this passage. Oh, I know that many of you may be sharper intellectually than your husbands, and you may even have a natural or a spiritual gift of instructing others. But is your gift, and are your abilities in submission to the Lord's Word, and to your dear husband, as he attempts to lead and guide you and the rest of the family into the truth of the Bible? The Bible is saying that God will bless you mightily if you can see and pursue this good goal of godly living in the church, and in your home.

A godly Christian woman will want her husband to lead her spiritually. She will want him to come and read God's Word to her. Certainly she will want to see for herself what God would have her to do. But she will not simply lean to her own understanding. Instead she will confide

in her husband and ask him questions, all the time seeking for answers from the Bible herself. She will guard herself against believing the lies of the devil which might come to her in the form of unbelieving friends or family members, who would attempt to encourage her to think and act independently of her godly husband and her pastor. How thankful we ought to be that Jesus Christ came to die, so that husbands would once again know how to treat their wives with love and tenderness.

From Jesus Christ, men learn how to protect their wives, and give themselves for them, so that their rule in the household will not be tyrannical, but self-denying. Yes it is true that a woman should learn in silence with all submission in the church, that she should not teach or exercise authority in the church. And it is true that women are to keep silence in the churches and if they desire to learn anything, they should ask their husbands at home.(1 Cor. 14: 34 and 35) The reason for this is, that Eve was deceived and led her husband into this sin in the beginning, and so God has thought it proper to guard her from leading in this way again.

And even though the woman fell into transgression, being deceived, nevertheless if you look down at 1 Timothy 2: 15, you find that “the woman will be saved in childbearing if she continues in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control, as it says in 1st Timothy 2: 15. Martin Luther says this of the punishment: “This was a gracious and joyous punishment, because it confirmed the condemnation which had been pronounce upon the serpent. There remained for Eve, the sure hope of the resurrection, and this made her affliction bearable. Eve indeed had to bear the punishment throughout her whole life, while rearing children she always was in pain and peril. But that pertained only to her bodily life, for she had the hope of eternal life.”

“So, rightly considered, this was a very joyous and friendly punishment, for though the burden that was laid upon her was troublesome, yet she was supported by the hope of a better life. This punishment did not deprive her of many blessings, for she was not separated from Adam; she could bear children, and retained the honor of motherhood. Therefore her heart was no doubt full of joy despite her punishment, and perhaps she told her husband, ‘I have sinned, but God is nevertheless gracious to us, for He allows us to enjoy so many temporal and eternal blessings.’ In this way our first parents no doubt frequently comforted each other in their tribulation. So, despite the punishment, God permitted Eve to experience His inexpressible mercy which encouraged and comforted her in such a way that she was of good cheer and full of joy.”

Oh, how I pray that every woman here, would take these good words of Luther’s to heart. God has not withheld any good thing from you, dear sister in Christ. Rather, He has given you everything in Himself, His Son, and His Word. And if you have a husband who is faithful to the truth of the Word, in doctrine and in practice, you will have reason enough to rejoice in your godly submission and silence in the church.

3rd – In closing, let us consider the Consequential Action of God - The precious promise God to them, of what He would do for the woman and through the woman.

He would bring salvation. Verse 15 – “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” This is a declaration of war on the part of God against Satan and his schemes. And notice that He will use a woman in this battle. This enmity which God put into Eve’s heart and which He puts into the heart of every godly woman by Christ’s grace, is a holy hostility towards sin and a fear of the kind of deception which happened to Eve in the garden. Every godly woman fears to be deceived, fears to fall prey to Satan’s schemes, and will do whatever she can to oppose and resist the evil one’s advances toward herself and her family.

We have seen in our study today that the holy woman of God will conquer by submission to God and to her husband. She will triumph over the devil by her submission to God knowing that

it is only the Lord Jesus Christ who gives her saving and keeping grace. She will conquer by knowing and believing that Christ's Word is enough for her. She will no longer listen to lies, or speak lies. She will hold fast the truth of God's Word and she will not let it go. She now sees who her enemy really is. It is the Devil. And so she will be submissive to her own husband as well. She readily receives the truth that she needs this man whom God has given her. She needs him, not only for physical protection, but she needs him also for spiritual protection. She needs his spiritual leadership and she promotes his faithfulness to the truth of the Bible. She sees the dangers of the women's liberation movement.

She sees that God does not want her to take the lead in the family, or in the church, but to play the supportive role, and to truly attempt to be her husband's helper. And so she deliberately decides not to attempt to become his manager, or the one who straightens him out on all the issues. For there is now enmity in her mind and heart to the whole idea that she has to act independently of her God and her husband to fulfill her purpose in life. She will live the life of faith, and hope, and love, knowing that by these gracious and godly principles that evil is overcome and great good will be established. She now sees this kind of submission as a good thing, for it keeps her from sin, and it in time it will establish righteousness in herself, her husband, and her children.

You see, Eve saw that day, the same day that she had sinned so badly, where the remedy for the serpent's venom would come from. It would come from God Himself giving her a seed, a man-child who would destroy the head of the Serpent, and defeat all his schemes. He would crush the serpent's head. He would destroy all of his works. All that Satan would be able to do against Him and his kingdom, would be to bruise His heel. Eve didn't know yet all that this would involve, or the time that it would take for this great redemption to be worked out.

But I hope that you can see that the application of it began that day. Christ is the promised Seed. The antidote is his grace. She would have it applied to her heart to become a person saved from eternal death by Christ's grace. She would die physically, but she would never die spiritually, because Christ would die on the cross in her place. Listen to what Galatians 4: 4 says, "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And, we might add daughters as well. This was the first time in human history that the gospel was preached to fallen man. I am convinced that Eve believed it and was saved. What about you? If you do not believe in the gospel, the consequences of sin will be more than you can bear.

Will you not take Christ to be your Savior? Will you not submit to His Lordship? Surely He will be a good and gracious Lord and Master, Savior and Friend to you. With Him your sins will all be forgiven, and even if the consequences of sin remain for this life, still the blessings of what He has done for you will continue forever. Give your life to Him today. Surely there is no Husband for your soul who will treat you as well as He does. Let your desire be for Him, and He shall rule over you, not with a rod of iron, but with a scepter of gentleness and love.

We ought to praise God this morning for His mercy, that in the midst of the judgments we read of in this passage, that there was also a promise given that God would undertake on behalf of sinful men and women. It was a promise of Christ, and what God would do through the Seed of the woman. "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."