

Sin Destroys Marriage

Genesis 3

Introduction:

Review the truths about marriage communicated in Genesis 2.

Read together Genesis 2:15-3:19 and review the story of the fall into sin.

The account of mankind's fall into sin is a very sad one and has resulted in great suffering throughout all of the history of mankind. In Genesis 3 we see that Satan tempted Eve to sin and that her sin began the destruction of God's purpose for marriage between man and woman. There are many truths that we can study about marriage by meditating on Genesis 3.

1. Satan tempted Eve by leading her to doubt God and to act independently of her husband (v.1-6).

- God created Eve so that she would serve Him by being a helper to Adam. Because she doubted God's love and goodness she decided to make decisions apart from her husband. Much sin in marriage happens today because the wife wants to live for herself and her own goals rather than to be the helper to her husband. The woman was not created to lead and make decisions for the family; the man was created for this purpose. Wives who are believers in Christ must learn to be dependant rather than independent. This is the exact opposite of the philosophy of the world.

Application: Wives, are you living in a dependant relationship to your husband or an independent one? Are you living to be his helper or living for your own goals? If your husband is unsaved and living in sin, you will not be able to help him to serve God, but you can help him someday come to salvation through your love and submission to him. This may be difficult, but you must do this in every way that you can (1 Peter 3:1-7).

2. Instead of helping Adam to serve God, Eve led him into sin (v.6).

- When Eve listened to the serpent and decided to take the fruit and eat it, she left her role as her husband's helper and thought only about herself. If she was fulfilling her role as helper, she would have warned Adam about the words of the serpent and would have gone to him right away. When Adam came, she led him to sin and rebellion against God.

Application: What is your influence in your family? Are you encouraging your husband to faith in Christ by your good testimony? Are you seeking to help him have the time to serve God? Are you taking care of your husband's needs so that

he is not tempted to sin? Does your husband know that you love him and that you want to help him?

3. Instead of leading his wife and correcting her, Adam followed Eve into sin (v.6).

- What should Adam have done when he came up to Eve and saw that she had eaten the fruit? He should have rebuked her for her sin and should have led her to repent and get right with God right away. Instead of leading her to do what is right, he followed her into sin. Many husbands today sin against their families because they refuse to acknowledge their responsibility to lead their families to obey and serve God. Many men fail to be an example to their wives and children. Many are lazy and undisciplined and do not serve God and their wives end up leading the family spiritually—this is opposite of God’s plan.
- Because Adam followed his wife into sin, sin and death passed to all of their children and to all of us. Because of his sin, mankind now had to work hard to live (v.17-19).

Application: Men, are you the spiritual leader in your family or is your wife? Are you giving an example for your wife and children to follow? When your wife sins, do you lead her to repent and follow God or do you follow her in sin? Men who know Jesus Christ must learn how to lead their families to serve God, both by example and by instruction. If not, you are failing to fulfill God’s purpose for your life and family.

4. Their sin resulted in the husband and wife blaming one another instead of repenting of their sins (v.7-13).

- Adam did not lead his wife to repent, nor did he humble himself and repenting when he sinned. Instead he blamed Eve and blamed God. Eve blamed the serpent and did not repent immediately. Their relationship of unity was now broken and they began to sin against one another. God created them to live in perfect love towards one another and be one flesh, but now they both have become sinners. All family problems are because of sin and the lack of love.

Application: Is your home filled with strife and problems? If so, it is because of sin. Are you guilty of sin that is causing your home to be filled with strife? Are you living in the love of God towards your husband, wife, or children? If there is disunity, it is because of sin. The Holy Spirit was given to us to help us to break free of those sins that ruin families. God can give help and grace to change. Do you need to repent of sin?

5. The curse of sin has resulted in the woman not wanting to fulfill God’s purpose by being their husband’s helper but instead wanting to control him (v.16).

- Part of the curse of sin was that the woman would now experience great suffering when bearing children. Now every child born into the world would be

born in sin and would someday die, even as its parents. More than this, sin greatly affected marriage. Now all women would struggle against fulfilling God's purpose in being their husband's helper. Now all women would find that God's curse would be true—"Your desire shall be for your husband." Wives will want to lead and control their husbands and will want to do things their own way instead of for their husband. This is the result of sin. Christian women must understand this desire of their flesh and get victory over it by God's Spirit. The world teaches women that submission is evil, the opposite of God's Word.

6. The curse of sin has resulted in the man not wanting to fulfill God's purpose by leading his wife but instead wanting to use and oppress her (v.16).

- Because of sin, men too would die. Life would now be very hard. Taking care of their families would require much toil. Sin in their hearts would now cause them to love themselves more than their wives. They would now be tempted to use and oppress women rather than love, value, and protect them. Much of the world today teaches men that women are for sex and house work, no matter how much they talk about human rights and equality. God told the woman that the man "he shall rule over you." Instead of leading their wives in love, most men just live in the same house with their wives and use them to fulfill their desires. This is the opposite of God's plan.

Application: Wives, do you seek to control your husband or are you his helper? Husbands, do you love and value your wife as your companion and helper or do you just use her? When we received Jesus as our Savior, His Spirit came to indwell us in order to begin taking away these sins out of our lives so that we can worship and serve God in holiness? What do you need to change?

Marriage is the greatest instrument in God's hands to show to us how sinful we are. That means that it can be a wonderful instrument in God's hands to change us and make us more like Jesus.