

The Beginning – Part 2

Introduction & Review

- The Bible establishes that everything was good in the beginning at creation (Gen. 1:4, 10....., 31).
- God made conditional provisions to maintain & experience the good of creation (Gen. 2:15-17) – **enjoying God’s goodness involves observing limitations established by Him.**
- Sin begins with a lie, deception & temptation (Gen. 3:1-6).
- The full consequences of sin are not always readily apparent (Gen. 3:7a).

I. Humanity’s Response to Initial Sin

A. The cover-up (Gen. 3:7b)

After disobeying God, they now understand & experience the initial consequences of sin - unpleasant & unwelcome. Adam & Eve now experience guilt & shame for the first time. Sin caused them to lose their righteous covering or clothing. They attempt to make a remedy to cover up the consequences of sin – “sewed” & “made themselves”. Mankind cannot restore the righteous covering of God with human effort. Modern cover-up: accomplishments, man-made works & religion (Col. 2:8-23; Mt. 7:21-23).

B. Hiding (Gen. 3:8, 10)

The guilt & shame of sin also produce an ungodly fear of God (v. 10). Guilt, shame & ungodly fear now produce unreasonable thinking. Adam & Eve attempt to hide from the omniscient & omnipresent God (Ps. 139:7-10). Modern ways of hiding: nice clothing, accessories, possessions, etc.

C. Blame (Gen. 3:11-13)

When confronted about his sin, Adam confesses while blaming Eve directly and God indirectly (3:12). When confronted about her sin, Eve confesses while blaming the serpent (devil) directly (3:13). Another consequence of sin: people will not naturally take responsibility for their sin, but blame others – people, circumstances, organizations, the devil & even God.

II. God’s Response to Initial Sin

A. God seeking (Gen. 3:8a)

God always takes the initiative with sinful & guilty humanity. God created Adam & Eve to have fellowship with Him. God is faithful to seek after people for true fellowship & worship – “they heard the sound of the Lord God walking...” (Lk. 19:10; Jn. 4:23).

B. God confronting (Gen. 3:9-13)

God always confronts & addresses sin – no one escapes His judgment, whether immediately or later. Every individual is responsible for his/her own sin – addresses Adam first (3:9). There are different levels of accountability & responsibility in sin (Lk. 12:47-48; Jas. 3:1) – Adam was the leader of his family & first in responsibility. This is the question for everyone who sins, “Where a you?” – “Can you see where sin has taken you?”; gone astray.. God continues to make this sinful action clear & He seeks true confession (3:11; 1Jn. 1:9). Eve is confronted with the next convicting question, “What is this that you have done?” (3:13). “Can you see the damage that has been done by your sin? Stop justifying your sin & blaming others & take a look at the damage done by a few minutes of pleasure...

In this devastating display of defiance, God is still gracious, patient, merciful & kind as He brings justice to these first sinners!

ILL: Little children playing hide & seek with limited places to hide – small trees, shrubs, posts, cars, etc. They can easily be seen behind every place they hide – clothing, shoes, arms, etc. are visible. They assume that they have selected a good spot & will not be found. They even close their eyes to better conceal themselves.

APPL: The same is true of people young & old today attempting to hide from God. They assume they have selected a good place to hide, but everything & everyone is clearly visible to God at all times (Ps. 139:11-12).