

**Biblical Manhood and Womanhood:
Marred by the Fall
Genesis 3:1-21**

Introduction

Biblical Manhood and Womanhood Series
October 2—God’s Good Design
October 9—Marred by the Fall
October 16—Example of Christ and the
Apostles
October 30—Apostolic Directions to the
Churches

Genesis 3:1-21

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to

her husband who was with her, and he ate.
⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."
¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you

shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”

17 And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; **18** thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. **19** By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

20 The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

21 And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

1. The Nature of the Serpent’s Temptation

- Distortion of God’s Command—“Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”
- Denial of God’s Judgment—“You will not surely die.”
- Dishonor of God’s Character—“For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
- Deception—“Your eyes will be open” + “You will be like God.” 13 “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

- Desire—"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise"
- Disobedience—"She took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate."

2. The Judicial Consequences of Human Sin

- Serpent—Ongoing Hostility with Human Race and Eventual Destruction by the Woman's Offspring
- Woman—Pain in Childbirth (Procreation)
- Man—Painful Difficulty in Cultivating the Earth (Dominion)
- Both—sentence of death—return to dust
- Disruption of the union between Man and Woman (3:16b):
 - Woman—desire for mastery over husband
 - Man—domineering over wife or failing to protect her (passive abdication of leadership as did Adam—"because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten")
 - Both—blameshifting (3:12)

3. The Historical Impact of Human Sin on the relationship between men and women

Biblical History is brutally straightforward:

- Polygamy (Lamech—also known for violence; common violation of God’s original design, even among the patriarchs)
- Concubinage (Abraham)
- Rape (Dinah; in vengeance Simeon and Levi engaged in genocide)

- Sexual Immorality (Leviticus 18, etc)—adultery, fornication (heterosexual and homosexual), incest, bestiality, prostitution (commercial and cultic),

- Infanticide (destroying the offspring resulting from sexual immorality a horrific ancient practice—burning infants alive as sacrificial offerings to Molech; abandoning infants to the elements in ancient Rome; ancient world also practiced inducing miscarriages to end unwanted pregnancies; surgical and medical abortion—different methods, all the same result, all devalue children).

- Divorce—OT law and NT commands sought to mitigate the harm of divorce, to protect the vulnerable (easy divorce without legal protection—Deuteronomy 24; viewed in Malachi 2 as violence against spouse where protection should be—covering one’s garment with violence; harm to children who are to

be reared as holy offspring) and the innocent (Matthew 19—recourse in the face of ongoing, unrepentant sexual immorality)

All of these practices reflect the damaged relationship between sinful men and women, adding further damage.

They reveal the failure of men to exercise godly leadership with gentle care, the dishonoring of men and women into tools for self-centered abuse of God's good gift of marriage and sex, and the destruction of healthy marriages and family life contrary to God's good design.

Moses and the prophets, Christ and the apostles confront such practices as contrary to God's clear directives, dishonoring to God and to human beings, and extensively harmful. The Scriptures warn of God's executing righteous wrath on those who practice such things and give historical examples of His doing so: for example, polygamy always creates multiple family problems, and sexual perversions, which are often paired with various forms of violence, brings devastating judgment, often by conquering armies, and at times by nature itself, from hornets to fire from heaven itself.

4. The Only Hope (20-21)

20 The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

21 And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

- Faith in the coming Offspring who would crush the serpent
- Blood atonement provided by God Himself for our shame of sin

Christ and the apostles will exemplify what a redeemed relationship between men and women looks like (October 16).

The apostles will give instructions to the congregation of the redeemed (the Church) regarding godly roles and how we should treat one another (October 30).