

SS, Marriage, M&F, 2023- The Fall

3/19/23

SUMMARY: This class examines Genesis 3 in terms of distinctions between the male and the female. Illustrations from Genesis of how the fall impacted the male/female relationship will be considered. **Gen. 3:1-24**

1. Note that it is the woman whom Satan seduces.

- 1) The one feature emphasized about the serpent is that it was "MORE CRAFTY than any other (animal)".
- 2) God's design was that the woman, under her husband's headship, and together under God's headship, would exercise dominion over the serpent (and the rest of creation). The proper order was God: man: woman: serpent.
- 3) The crafty serpent would labor to reverse that order. And he succeeded. Serpent: woman: man: God.
- 4) The serpent prompted Eve to question: a) God's goodness; b) God's integrity; and c) God's motives (Andreas Kostenberger). In relation to her husband, Eve acted independently. She took the lead in this matter rather than seek his leadership.
- 5) Having disobeyed, she should have sought help from her Maker and from her husband. Having experienced guilt, she should have warned her husband against transgression. Her calling was to help him, not hurt him.
- 6) The NT draws attention to Eve having been deceived. 2Co 11:3; 1Ti 2:14
- 7) The NT draws far more attention to the danger both men and women face of being deceived. 1 John 1:8; 2:26; 3:7

2. Note the failure of Adam to exercise loving leadership.

- 1) Adam had been entrusted with the word of the Lord concerning the trees of the Garden. He should have resisted the temptation. He should have LED his wife by example and by word. Instead, he passively followed his wife's leadership, transgressing as she had done.

APPLICATION Q: Give examples of husbands acting passively from the lives of Abraham, Lot, Isaac, and Jacob.

QUESTION: How do you see a similar passivity in the Judges account of Deborah and Barak? Judges 4:1-9

- 2) Adam, having sinned, should have led Eve in seeking the Lord's grace and mercy. Instead, they sought their own covering for their nakedness.
- 3) When they heard the approach of their Maker, Adam should have led the way by confessing sin and pleading for pardon. Instead he joined Eve in attempting to hide.
- 4) Note that the LORD God "called to *THE MAN* and said *TO HIM*, 'Where are you?'" (v9). His transgression was of greater significance than that of the woman.

QUESTION: What crucial NT passage underscores that Adam's sin was of more profound consequence than Eve's?

- 5) Note that the man confessed his fear but not his transgression. He was being evasive.
- 6) When confronted directly, the man admitted that he ate but in a manner that shifted the blame more on the woman and on God himself. This is male passivity at its worst, because refusing to own sin prevents one from receiving pardon and help.
- 7) His poor leadership example did not help Eve, who likewise shifted the blame rather than squarely facing her own sin

APPLICATION QUESTION: What are some of the ways that men are vulnerable to being passive in their leadership at home?

3. Note how the Lord punishes the woman.

- 1) Her PAIN would MULTIPLY.
- 2) There will be conflict and tension in the home.
- 3) Note parallel with Gen. 4:7:

4. Note how the Lord punishes the man.

5. Having considered male passivity, what are some of the ways in which Genesis portrays women as unwisely or sinfully asserting their will?

APPLICATION QUESTION: What are some of the ways that Christian women can unwisely or sinfully assert their will?

APPLICATION QUESTION: What are some of the other ways in which we see a breakdown in male/female relationships in the history described in Genesis?

Polygamy; Adultery; Rape; Double standards; Homosexuality

