

The Outcome of Sin

Eve

Part 2

“...and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee” (Genesis 3:16).

This one verse must be added to the list *among* some of the most misunderstood scriptures in the Bible. This verse has caused more family conflict and marital discouragement than possibly any other scriptures. This verse has given carnal men the power they sought to control and manipulate their wives into every act from self-gratification to outright sinful deeds! Men have used this verse and others like it, to justify their demands for their wives to wait on them as if she were a maid, an errand girl, or a sex-slave. Those words may be hard to hear and realize, but they are true none the less. Some Christian men have used this passage of scripture to justify beating their wives, and controlling every aspect of her life: where she goes, who her friends are, how she uses her time, even controlling mundane things of life such as the TV remote! In this kind of household the wife has become a second-class citizen. Such actions are not supported by scripture and any man acting or behaving in this way *has not* understood his role as a husband. However, we will wait to discuss men’s roles until we get to Adam.

It is important to note that this outcome, the husband ruling, having dominion/dominating his wife, *is a consequence of sin* and not something that was established *prior* to sin. To overlook this point is to miss something significant about human nature and our relationships to each other. The personalities: likes, dislikes, attitudes and behaviors that we call “normal” today for men and women are effects of *The Fall*. Today, what is viewed as men’s distancing or aloofness, aggressiveness, arrogance, domineering, and controlling-anger was not normal before *The Fall*. Likewise, what is often said to be women’s clinginess, over-talkative, gossipy, moodiness, and/or emotional-instability was not normal before *The Fall*. These so-called commonly attached gender traits came with The Fall. These were not attributes God created men and women to have!! I REPEAT these attributes **WERE NOT** attributes that God created men and women to have!! These behaviors are consequences of the fall.

Let us look at how the first husband viewed his wife:

Adam said (speaking about Eve before *The Fall*), “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh” (Genesis 2:23). The Hebrew word for “bone” is עֶצֶם *etsem* [eyet-sim] and means bone, skeleton, substance, and/or self. The Hebrew word from which “flesh” was translated is בָּשָׂר *basar* [ba-sar] and means: body, skin, relatives, or relationship (in essence: everything that connects us with other people). So, what is Adam expressing? He is saying, this woman is substance of my substance; she is self from my very self; she is made from me and is, therefore, similar to me, and this experience relates us, and brings us into relationship together. This is a relationship so intimate that Adam says he will *cleave* to her. Adam declares, for this reason “a

man shall leave his father and mother” so that he may “cleave to his wife!” The Hebrew word for “cleave” is: דָּבַק **dabaq** [da-vak] and means “to stick to, to hold to, to be glued to,” this is what he means to become “one flesh.” In essence he is saying they are becoming one working-unit together; they are now *inseparable* (Genesis 3:24).

Adam’s words tell us this is not a temporary relationship; instead, it is to be a lifetime bonded connection working together in God’s world for God’s purposes. Adam didn’t want to be without Eve. Togetherness was their existence and neither one of them found the other to be too clingy or overly invested in the relationship. In Adam’s mind this was a *forever* relationship.

Side Note: This point as already stated can’t be overstated. In today’s world the view that men and pornography is just “human *male* nature” is a lie!! God created Eve for Adam and it was God’s intention that Adam would desire only Eve for the rest of his life. She was to be the one woman who would hold his physical attraction and desire. Eve was also created to desire Adam for life. They were made to love always the other. It is only after sin enters the world that this relationship became marred. Therefore, lust, pornography, and perversions in any form are a result of a sinful fallen world and a sinful fallen human. A born-again man has been set free by Christ to live as a new committed man who is honorable in his relationship as a husband. The same with a woman who is born again is no longer bound by the lusts of this world and is free in Christ to be faithful to her husband. We will return to this point later....

Jesus expressed the nature of husband-wife relationship was intended to be lifelong when He taught his disciples about marriage (Matthew 19:4-6). This relationship, between a husband and wife, was never intended, in God’s mind, to be disconnected or destroyed. A husband and wife were always planned to be *united together for life*. This was a covenant that was present at the beginning of human creation and was envisioned to never be broken. Nevertheless, once sin entered the world, the married relationship-bond was damaged.

Again, remember in the Garden, before *The Fall*, the husband and his wife are naked and unashamed (Genesis 2:25). This means that in their bonded union the man and woman are completely comfortable with each other. There are no insecurities, no worries about their bodies not being “good enough” or “shapely enough” or “strong enough” or chiseled enough” and so forth...those thoughts *do not exist in the Garden of Eden*, yet! Thoughts of betrayal are not in their minds, yet! Images of anger and regret do not exist, yet! Competition between them does not exist, yet! So, for Adam and Eve, however or whatever, their, then, earthly appearance appeared—they were completely content with each other and they experienced a profound connection together—they coupled as if they were one unit working together. From this perspective we can see they are equally in **submission** to each other!! To work together as one unit, to be glued together would require submission to each other in equal amounts.

Sadly, the Garden didn’t stay pure, because *free-will* placed in the hands of humanity made another out-come possible. Satan tempted Adam and Eve and they fell; they fell not only away

from God, but from each other. Their eyes opened to sin; the insecurities and the fears immediately took over their minds. Tragically, God explains to Eve that one of the consequences to having eaten from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is that *now* she and her husband will no longer couple as before, but now Adam will exercise dominion over her. God has no wasted words. **If Adam had dominion over Eve prior to *The Fall*—God would not need to explain this consequence to Eve in the Garden in relationship to the consequences of sin!! This means God’s is explaining something to Eve that *did not exist before The Fall*.** Sadly, the imposter god has taken hold on the world and his deception has caused a rift between Eve and her husband—this is what God is explaining!

What is God actually saying has happened between Adam and Eve? God is saying, because you have eaten from the forbidden Tree—sin has entered the Garden and everything is different—including human relationships. Not only has sin cursed the animals and all of creation, and not only has it condemned Satan to a final end to come, but the unity between a husband and his wife has been broken and they will now *struggle for* unity that once came so easily. Their equal submission, their willingness toward each other has been lost in *the confusion of sin*. God is telling Eve, not only will you suffer in child bearing but you will struggle in your relationship with your husband. The words “to rule” come from the Hebrew word: מָשַׁל *mashal* meaning “to have dominion” or “to have authority over.” Eve is already aware that something has changed between her and Adam and that is why they hide, not only from God, but they covered themselves (hid) from each other. She knows something has changed, because they felt shame in each other’s presence, but the full impact still needed to be told to her. We know this because God is explaining it to her; in this passage God explains to Eve what has changed. God is confirming to Eve: once you and Adam had dominion over evil and had all authority **shared** (equal submission) together in this Garden to keep it pure and untouched by evil, but now evil has torn a rift in your relationship. Now, Eve, your eyes are opened to sin and you and Adam will not see each other as you did before. In this passage (16) God explains to Eve what has changed—it is their intimacy, their closeness, their mutual trust, their reliance on each other—it is gone!!

We need to pause and remember: just as childbirth was not a curse from God; nevertheless, it is a consequence of sin; a result of listening to Satan!! However, God placed a way for Eve to still experience, understand, and hear God in her fallen experience with childbirth. Similarly, Adam’s ruling over her is not a pronouncement of God’s damnation on Eve; it is simply a reality of a now fallen world. God is revealing to Eve that in a fallen world Adam will behave differently, he will seek to dominate, to conquer, and to overcome the physical world—including her (We will understand Adam’s need for domination when we read what God tells him. For now, we stay with Eve).

Remember: God told Eve, “I will multiply your suffering in childbirth” the emphasis is on “I will” meaning God. However, what follows next is: “Your desire shall be for your husband” (Genesis 3:16). “Your desire” is referring to Eve’s desire. “Eve” God is saying, Eve, your תַּשׁוּקָה *teshuqah*

[too-ka] or [chew-ka] which means *desire* or a better understanding is a “longing.” So, Eve, the love you and Adam once shared together, which came so easy before, will now be a longing in your heart. Adam’s love is something you will *seek* after or desire after, but Eve, in a sinful world, Adam’s response to you will *not be as it was* before. In a sin-ridden world, Eve, you and your descendants will know the crushing authority or dominance of your husbands.

God is telling Eve in this one sentence the future of her relationship with Adam. Once Adam and Eve were a safe place for each other, but sin broke the trust, unity, and love they once shared. Sin will now bring a different kind of love; a distorted kind of love—a substitute for the love God had given them. Eve will *long* for Adam; and it will be repeated by their descendants.

As we look out at a fallen world do we not see that women, even today, and throughout history have been willing to do almost anything; even outrageous things in the name of love??? Many women have lost themselves trying to become whatever she must be to catch her man’s eye. Yet, a love marred by sin is no longer a pure love, but as already mentioned a distortion of what love should have been. How have women acted out in their longing for men, not only in the Bible, but throughout world history and our culture today: Are they not willing to be exploited, beaten, sold, used, rejected, ignored, shared with his friends and enemies, raped, dance for him, entertain him, starve for him, paint her face, plastic surgery, alter her personality however she must, spend whatever she must to wear the latest fashion, be willing to share his addictions, serve him, allow him to be abusive, molest and even kill her children...on and on it goes. All of this in the name of love!!!!

We need to pause: Let us take a moment to remember the tenants of sin: Sin is rebellion against God. Its purpose is to separate us from God ***and to keep us separated*** from God and each other. Sin is intended to keep our eyes and ears shut to the One True God and to give us a new king to worship and serve—Satan! So, this consequence of sin is a way Satan can keep men and women a part and fallen. However, God, who is compassionate and merciful doesn’t allow the enemy to have the final say!!

Though the consequences of sin come into this world through the rebellion of Satan and then the rebellion of the man, Adam; and though all of creation will suffer under the effects of sin; nevertheless, neither Satan nor sin will have the last word. God had a plan from the beginning and He never intended to let go of His creation; even when He knew what His creation would do with the ability to choose (*our* free-will). BUT, since God already established for us in Genesis chapter one that He sees *the end from the beginning*; we can see even in the most devastating moment in the Garden: though humanity has fallen, and sin’s consequences *must* come, and the tempter seems to have won; God *is still in control* of the final outcome!! Even as the creeping hands of death begin to take hold on God’s perfect world—God sets some boundaries for what sin can and cannot do to His creation!!

Though Satan triumphed over humanity; though Satan is the originator of sin and though he is the perpetrator of sin; nevertheless, God did put a boundary on Satan's power. The one power Satan **cannot have is the ability to keep someone trapped in sin!** God began in the Garden of Eden with the first of many promises about the coming Messiah. God tells them (and us) that this is not the final word. There is more to come and anyone who *hears* the voice of God and is *willing* to respond to God's voice: *willing* to come out of the darkness, out of hiding and stand open and bare before God, will one day be set free from the bondage of sin and death!

So, yes, sin is the poison that runs wild in a sinful world governed by Satan, but even in the sin fallen state of this world God places opportunities of His Grace. The consequences of sin are consequences of sin. We can be angry about them, we can fight against it, or we can accept the solution—Jesus and his sacrificial love for every man and every woman who would ever live. It is through Christ that a husband and wife can be restored to a more perfect union. In the New Testament there are clearly defined roles given for men and women toward each other in marriage. These roles are not an extension of The Fall in the Garden of Eden. Instead, these roles are to be a way for a husband and wife to return to their truest creative order by God's design (we will talk more about this in future lessons).

For now, let us just revisit what actually happened between the husband and wife again, and briefly revisit God's words to Eve:

Adam was not a leader that day when Satan showed up in the Garden!! Likewise, Eve had failed to support Adam in what he had instructed his wife about the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. **She, therefore, ALSO failed to stand beside Adam in solidarity against Satan's attack.** Adam **failed to support Eve by taking charge**; he was the head steward of the Garden. This means that God made Adam first, and that God had *personally* given Adam guidance and directives on how things were to be kept (more on that when we talk about Adam's consequences). So, **Adam did not demonstrate or exercise his God given leadership abilities placed in him at his creation!** Those gifts were given to him so that he would use them *against evil* whenever evil should and would arise in the Garden.

Once this failure (sin) occurred, transference of power took place—Satan became the prince of this world (II Cor 4:4, Ephesians 2:2, John 12:31), and the relationship between the man and woman changed!!

God is confirming for Eve what she already feels: her husband is not the same man nor is she!! Sin has changed their relationship! Now Eve will long for *or* lust after, even run after, Adam's love and Adam will seek to dominate her as he will everything else that he believes he rightfully owns.

God was not saying, that He condemned Eve to be Adam's doormat or that she was to do whatever her husband told her to do, regardless!!! God was NOT saying that she (and every

woman after her) is to follow their husbands into sin!!!! We must remember what was ACTUALLY broken in the Garden; it was the man and woman's ability to stand together, as one unit, against evil, against temptation, against sin, against Satan!!

God will never condone sin!!! Remember: sin is Satan's creation, not God's.

So, again, God is declaring to Eve that the deep wounding of not standing together that she and Adam have suffered will now become a daily part of the human existence between husbands and wives. God is telling Eve that because she chose not to turn to her husband, and he to her, that now they will struggle against each other *for power* in their relationship!! This is a consequence of sin; however, thank God, it is a consequence that God has not abandon humanity in, but has placed boundaries on it so that it can lead humanity back to Him! If they, both, men and women are willing to submit to their *original* roles rather than continuing to submit to Satan—then healing is possible and restoration will come.

Before we can fully understand the roles for men and women we need to be clear that for men "to rule" or "to dominate" to have dominion is typically to represent an independent or *sovereign power of one*; or a single person-rulership that gives all the power and authority to one person. This is what happened at The Fall; this was Satan's doing and his way to destroy the bond between the man and the woman. **Submission**, however, that is taught in the New Testament is entirely different kind of power. ***Submission is something that is given***; it requires choice *and* surrender. The New Testament does define roles for husbands and wives. However, at the end of the day, both roles require **a submission of the will of each spouse to the other**.

Side note: Does it make any sense that God would require a wife to be more committed and obedient to her husband than to God? Humans were created with free-will. God does not want puppets, but God wants obedience to come from a willing heart, a submitted heart, a heart that is given freely; not grudgingly. Therefore, would God require a wife to be a mere puppet to her husband? No, the marriage of a husband and wife is to reflect the relationship Christ has with His Church. No one in God's church is forced into doing anything. Therefore, to teach that husbands or wives hold all the power in the relationship **is to not** understand the scriptures fully (we will discuss this more in the weeks to come).

Sneek Peek into those relationships between husbands and wives as God still intends them: Eve (wives) are to *submit* to Adam's (husbands) godly guidance.

Eve is to follow Adam's *leading regarding spiritual warfare*! She is not to take matters in her own hands, alone, as she did when she was tempted in the Garden. When Satan tempted Eve, she didn't turn to Adam and ask him anything, even though he was standing right there. Adam said nothing to Eve, but likewise, Eve didn't ask Adam to help her deal with the challenger either!!!! The moment temptation showed up they stopped acting as one unit!!! They were

not acting as if they were bound together, glued together!!! They were acting on their own, as individuals, who are not connected and **that was their downfall!!!** They did not rely on God's divine order of his creation for them. They were to stand in *support of each other or in equal submission!!!* They were to war together against evil; not stand on their own against it!!!

So, again, what are the original roles they had? Eve, because she did not turn to Adam for help but acted alone, she must now struggle against her flesh to look to her husband for spiritual guidance (meaning spiritual **agreement**) in their relationship. However, Adam, because he did not offer to help Eve, in her time of attack by Satan, **he must, also, seek for spiritual agreement**, regardless if Eve asks for it, wants it, or feels she needs it!!!! (more on that when we study Adam's consequences).

Their roles to each other have not changed but **the climate has changed**; it is now a sinful climate, a sinful world. Now, because of sin, they will have conflict against each other and Satan will use every trick he can to keep the two divided!! The husband and wife will now struggle to find spiritual agreement as they are faced with their individual pride, selfishness, and their need to be right in all matters they face in their lives together.

Today, if a couple is ever going to have what was intended in marriage they MUST return to spiritual warring—otherwise, they will war against the physical—against each other!