



Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness." However, mankind has the right to make choices, and the first man and woman directly disobeyed God. The result and consequence of their choice was separation from God and the entrance of sin and death (and all that goes with them) into the world and the human experience.

The following gives a deeper understanding of this:

A common misunderstanding is a regarding of sin as having the nature of a substance. But if sin were a substance, or a thing, it would have to have been created by God and would therefore in its essence be good. Christian teachers over the years, in view of God's hatred of sin in the Bible as a whole, have rejected the idea that sin has its origin in God.

Even though sin is not a substance or a thing, that does not mean it doesn't have reality. It acts in the realm of reality. Darkness is the absence of light. Although sin and evil are sometimes compared to darkness, they are more than the absence of good. Sin is also more than defect. It is a force that is active, pernicious, and destructive.

What does the Bible teach on this important subject? The biblical view is that sin originated in an abuse of the freedom given to created beings equipped with a will. God did not create evil. Evil is a matter of relationship, not a thing. Basically, it disregards the glory of God, the will of God, and the Word of God. It breaks away from a relation of obedience to and faith in God and makes a decision to fail Him. God did permit, however, for reasons known best to Him, the possibility of moral failure.

Freedom of the will is an important corollary of rational personality. Moral action is what determines character. And this involves a terrible risk, the risk of failure. God, in providing for truly free moral

decisions in the angels and human beings He created, had to allow for the possibility of failure in some of His creatures. Without that possibility, there would not be genuine freedom or true personality. The marvelous thing is that God at the same time provided a remedy for those who had fallen.¹

Ideas/world views/personal philosophies have **consequences.**

WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS IMPORTANT!!

Our understanding of man's fallen nature has a direct bearing on what we determine to be our sense of justice as well as what is **right** and **wrong.**

It affects our views on war, capital punishment, imprisonment, corporal punishment, sexuality, morality, the forms of discipline regarding children, and a host of other issues which govern our lives.

If we don't see that we are fallen, then we won't see the need for a savior.

¹ Menzies, W. W. (1993). [*Bible Doctrines: A Pentecostal Perspective*](#). (S. M. Horton, Ed.) (pp. 87–90). Springfield, MO: Logion Press.

1. Made in God's Likeness

Genesis 1:26–27 (ESV) ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

There are a number of different aspects of God's image reflected in humankind that can be seen in **Genesis 1:26**. Adam and Eve possessed a moral likeness to God in that they were originally created righteous and holy.

- A. They were in a right relationship with God, dedicated completely to good purposes and separated from evil (**Ephesians 4:24**).
- B. They possessed a moral likeness to God as sinless and holy creations, with wise minds, loving hearts and the desire to do right (**Ephesians 4:24**).

- C. Their personal relationship with God involved moral obedience (**Ephesians 2:16-17**) and intimate spiritual union.
- D. It also means they could respond to a unique personal relationship with God that reflected his love and character.
- E. They possessed a likeness to God in their **intelligence** because they were created with a spirit, mind, emotions and the power of choice (**Genesis 2:19-20; 3:6-7**).

Deuteronomy 6:4–6 (ESV) ⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

In a way, the **physical** makeup of human beings also reflects God's image in a way not true of animals.

God gave human beings the form in which he would appear visibly in the OT (**Genesis 18:1-2**) and the form

that his Son would take on when he came to earth (**Luke 1:35; Philippians 2:7**) to give his life as payment for the penalty of our sin.

2. The Original Sin.

What was the original sin?

Genesis 2:17 (ESV) but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

It is not enough to just say, “disobedience.”

We need to know what was BEHIND the disobedience.

People disobey in order to get something else.

- Gollum’s love for the One Ring (Lord of the Rings)
- Adolf Hitler’s thirst for power
- Lucifer’s desire for personal worship

What was the big carrot?

Genesis 3:5 (ESV) For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil.”

So, what?

The answer: *Because if you can be LIKE GOD... Then you don't need Him anymore.*

Isaiah 53:6 (ESV) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—**everyone—to his own way**; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Here is a famous poem that captures well this fact about human desire to be his or her own master:

Invictus

by William Ernest Henley

Out of the night that covers me,
 Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
 For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.²

3. The act **Consummated**

Genesis 3:6 (ESV) 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.

² Public Domain, <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/invictus> (Accessed September 1, 2017).

1. Eve was deceived... what was Adam's excuse?

It wasn't Eve's sin that brought about the fall. It was Adam's.

This isn't some patriarchal, male dominance issue. God had made Adam FIRST and ASSIGNED him the role as head. Responsibility had to rest with someone, and God decided it would be Adam.

God gives those he places in leadership a special measure of Grace to make the hard decisions. It wasn't that Adam was superior to Eve. It was that he was given the greater responsibility.

...and Adam chose to disregard that responsibility.

Dads, the decisions you make may not have consequences on the scale of Adam's, but it can have a greater effect than you can imagine. Consider the following story:

Leaving a godly legacy for your children should be the goal of all Christian parenting. Although the faith and godliness of your children is ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit, God often uses the influence of parents to make a great impact on their children.

A great example of this is Jonathan Edwards, the Puritan Preacher from the 1700s. Jonathan and his wife Sarah left a great godly legacy for their 11 children.

At the turn of the 20th century, American educator and pastor A.E. Winship decided to trace the descendants of Jonathan Edwards almost 150 years after his death. His findings were astounding, especially when compared to a man known as Max Jukes, whose legacy came to the forefront when the family trees of 42 different men in the New York prison system traced back to him.

Jonathan Edwards' godly legacy includes: 1 U.S. Vice-President, 3 U.S. Senators, 3 governors, 3 mayors, 13 college presidents, 30 judges, 65

professors, 80 public office holders, 100 lawyers and 100 missionaries.

Max Jukes' descendants included: 7 murderers, 60 thieves, 50 prostitutes, 130 other convicts. 310 paupers (or vagrants) with over 2,300 combined years lived in public poorhouses, and 400 who were physically wrecked by indulgent living.

It was estimated that Max Juke's descendants cost the state more than \$1,250,000.

This is a powerful example showing how a parent's leadership can have a profound effect on their children.³

The **CONSEQUENCES**

1. Curse of **suffering** in childbirth

Genesis 3:16 (ESV) To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring

³ Colin Smith, Unlocking the Bible, "Jonathan Edwards' Powerful Example of Leaving a Godly Legacy," June 4, 2012, <http://unlockingthebible.org/jonathan-edwards-leaving-a-godly-legacy> (Accessed September 1, 2017).

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

2. Labor of man

Genesis 3:17–19 (ESV) 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.”

3. Spiritual death

Estrangement from God - Adam and Eve also suffered a spiritual death when they disobeyed God. That is, their deep and personal relationship to, and with, God was destroyed. No longer did they walk and talk with God in the garden. Instead, they tried to hide from His presence (Genesis 3:8). The Bible teaches that apart from Christ, all people are alienated, or

separated, from God and from the ultimate life He offers.

Ephesians 4:17–18 (ESV) ¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, **alienated from the life of God** because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

4. Moral Death

Ephesians 2:1–3 (ESV) And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

5. Physical death, disease

After Adam and Eve ate fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, God pronounced these

words: ***"for dust you are and to dust you will return" (Genesis 3:19).***

Though they did not physically die on the day they ate, they did become subject to the law of death as a result of God's curse.

6. Eternal Death

Eternal life without experiencing physical death would have been the reward for obedience if Adam and Eve had chosen to accept God's warning (Genesis 3:22).

Instead, the realities of sin, suffering, disease, violence, and eternal death is the destiny for anyone who does not have a Savior.

Eternal death refers to being spiritually condemned and separated from God forever; this death is the end result of rejecting God and disobeying his instructions (Genesis 3:4, note). The Bible describes this as being "punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the LORD."

2 Thessalonians 1:8 (ESV) in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

7. Creation in turmoil

Romans 8:19–21 (ESV) ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

8. Satan given authority

- a. The authority was originally given to man

Genesis 1:26 (ESV) Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. **And let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

- b. When Adam fell, he abdicated his right to **DOMINION** (Gen 1) and ceded it to the one he aligned himself with

Ephesians 6:12 (ESV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the **cosmic powers over this present darkness**, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 2:2 (ESV) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the **prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

Romans 5:12–19 (ESV) ¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world **through one man**, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through

one man's trespass, much more have **the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ** abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

Read Genesis 1-2 (ESV) and answer the following:

1. What can we learn about God from Genesis 1-2?
2. Why do you think God specifically commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from that tree?
3. What does the fall mean for the church today?
4. Why do you think Adam ate the fruit when he was the first one who was specifically commanded not to do so?
5. Why do you think God gives us free will instead of making us like “robots?”