

Consequences of the Fall

Series: Back to the Beginning

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Pastor Chuck Pruett

New Life Church

Genesis 3:14-19 (ESV) 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 for your husband, and 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."

Rom 5:12 (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—

1. How does Adam's sin affect me?

"Original sin" refers to Adam's sin of disobedience in eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil and its effects upon the rest of the human race.

Main views of Original Sin:

1) Pelagianism.

This view says that Adam's sin had no effect upon the souls of his descendants.

Pr 20:9 (ESV) ⁹ Who can say, "I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin"?

Rom 3:9-11 (ESV) ⁹ What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, ¹⁰ as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God.

1 Cor 2:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Rom 8:7-8 (ESV) ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Only by God's prevenient grace...

- God always initiates and we respond.

John 6:44-45 (ESV) ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

John 12:32 (ESV) ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

2) Arminianism.

This view says mankind inherits a sinful nature but not guilty of Adam's sin.

Rom 5:12 (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—

Children need to reach age of accountability for sin ...

Matt 21:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, "'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?"

Deut 1:34-35, 39 (ESV) ³⁴ "And the LORD heard your words and was angered, and he swore, ³⁵ 'Not one of these men of this evil generation shall see the good land that I swore to give to your fathers, ³⁹ And as for your little ones, who you said would become a prey, and your children, who today have no knowledge of good or evil, they shall go in there. And to them I will give it, and they shall possess it.

Isa 7:15-16 (ESV) ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

2 Samuel 12:22-23 (ESV) ²² He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' ²³ But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

3) Calvinism.

This view says that we inherit a sinful nature and guilt of Adam's sin.

Rom 5:17-19 (ESV) 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.

1 Cor 15:21-22 (ESV) ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

4) Integrated Theory.

This view says we inherit a sinful nature and guilt of Adam's sin but no condemnation until age of responsibility.

Rom 5:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

2. How can I be free from sin?

Gen 3:15 (ESV) 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."

Salvation gives us a new nature...

2 Cor 5:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Salvation breaks the curse of sin...

Rom 6:6 (ESV) ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

Rom 6:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

Sanctification – battling the flesh

Rom 7:24-25 (ESV) ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Rom 12:2 (ESV) ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3. Celebrate your freedom by Remembering.

1 Cor 11:23-26 (ESV) ²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.