

## **Genesis 3:7-16 – Marital Disharmony**

### **A Three-fold Exposure After Sinning**

#### **The exposure of their loss of innocence (nakedness) Vs. 7**

The word “*knew*” is translated, “they had intellectual insight.” The reality is they discovered they lost their innocence.

#### **The exposure of self-effort**

Last part of verse 7, this is the first religious act of human history. This is the first act of self-effort to somehow cover over sin; to somehow make oneself better than you know you are.

Today many people put together their own self effort or self religious acts. If a person does not know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, they can go to church, they can pray prayers, they can give money to church; or give money away to a good cause, they can attend a Bible study or even teach one, but these are all fig leaves. It is human self-effort to pull oneself up, to placate the conscience when the real issue is they have never dealt with sin.

#### **The exposure of fear Vs. 8**

They ran and hid from God. Mankind did not know fear until he sinned. This is the nature of man. Because of sin, we do not run to God, we run from God. It is God who seeks us **Luke 19:10** “... *I have come to seek and to save that which was lost*” and it is God who reconciles us to Him, **Romans 5:10**, “*For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*” **Romans 5:1** “*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

The tragedy of this whole situation is that Adam and Eve thought they could hid their sin and somehow God would not know. God is omniscient; in **Job 37:16** the Scripture describes God’s knowledge as “perfect” knowledge. We cannot hide our sin, **Hebrews 4:13b**, “... *all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him . . .*”

### **The Destructions Resulting From Sin**

#### **The destruction of fellowship with God – Vs. 9-10**

He should have said, “*I heard the sound of You in the garden and I have disobeyed your command,*” but instead he avoided the truth and attempted to downplay it seriousness and said, “*I was naked, so I hid myself.*” Before the sin there was no lying; there was openness and communication. Now, there is hiding in guilt, shame and fear.

#### **The destruction of marital unity – Vs. 11-12**

Adam’s disobedience has been identified and he is culpable, there is no way out. Instead of owning up Adam blames Eve.

#### **Marriage lost its harmony**

Adam and Eve blamed each other. Because of our changed nature with sin, the “fallen nature” Adam and Eve learned the techniques of arguing, lying, and blaming. Unfortunately, as time passed Adam and Eve, as well as all human beings, for a lack of a better word, “enhanced” our skills at sinning.

#### **Woman lost her naturally submissive spirit – Vs. 16**

In the last part of verse 16 the word “desire” could be translated “crave”. In the text “crave” means a pursuit. This word comes from a Hebrew root which means to devour. It has the connotation of a crouching desire of an animal about to pounce on its prey. This word “desire” is the same word used in **Genesis 4:7** when God asked Cain “*Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?... sin lies at the door and its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.*”

This is the exact opposite of God’s design for the submissive role of the wife-- the “quiet, gentle spirit” where the woman is to love her husband by supporting him. It has now been replaced with the desire to control and rule over the husband.

## Genesis 3:7-16 – Marital Disharmony

Our worldly system has taken wives ruling the husband to an all-time historical high. The feminist movement articulates that it “right” for women to rule over men and emphasizes to heighten levels that you are wrong if you disagree. You will even be labeled a sexist if you disagree. Why? Satan opposes God and God’s Word and will do all he can to oppose it. This position is the opposite of God’s original intent for the roles of married couples.

### Man lost his naturally loving headship – Vs. 16

Last part of verse 16 “... *and he will rule over you.*” The Hebrew word “rule” comes from a prime root word “marshal rule” marshal rule is one word in Hebrew. The Hebrew word “rule” means to dominate – marshal rule. God’s definition of headship implies that man is to love his wife by accepting the primary responsibility for making their marriage a partnership that is a display of God’s glory. Now, man’s changed nature can cause him to tyrannically rule, subjugate woman, to press her down. We lost a wonderful, love-filled, caring, tender fellowship and partnership as a result of disobedience.

### Marital unity can be experienced

Paul in *Ephesians 5:18*, “...*be filled with the Spirit.*” The Greek word “filled” means “controlled”, “saturated.” Paul ties being filled / controlled by the Holy Spirit directly to marriage in verses 21-25. These Scriptures teach, <sup>21</sup>“*Submitting to one another in fear of God.*” <sup>22</sup>*Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church ...* <sup>24</sup> *Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.* <sup>25</sup>*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it.*”

Marital unity can be experienced when the power of Satan is quenched in the life of the believer by yielding to the Holy Spirit of God. Harmony in the home begins in the heart.

### The Principle of Commitment – Fulfilling marriage involves three commitments

Verse 24, the word “*cleave*” means, “weld or grip.” The marital scene in America today would change drastically if couples would come into marriage with one basic proposition – that there is absolutely no way out!

#### The first commitment: between you and the Lord

Husbands, to truly love your wife as Christ loved the church requires experiencing the love of Jesus Christ in your life. Wives, to lovingly submit and support your husband also requires experiencing the love of Jesus Christ in your life. Christ’s love is God’s love, it is God’s love in our life that enables us to fulfill God’s design for marriage.

#### The second commitment: between your spouse and the Lord

The commitment between your spouse and the Lord should be encouraged. Getting in the way of your spouse’s relationship with the Lord is serious.

#### The final commitment: between you and your spouse

Marriage hangs upon the first two commitments being in proper perspective. A man or a woman who is out of fellowship with Jesus Christ will be in rebellion to God’s Word and their marriage will be difficult, impossible, the opposite of all the glorious wonders that God had in mind with His original intent for happy marriages.

**Question:** If we know the consequences of sin, why do we sin? When we sin we expect something from the sin. What do we expect? When we lie, we expect to get our way, to cover up, or deceive someone, etc. When we steal we expect to get something for nothing, or happiness from materialism. When we covet we expect to get power or prestige.

**What we should do:** When tempted to sin we should asked ourselves ...

- What do I expect to get from this sin? What is the lie of this sin? What does the Bible say about this? What does God want from me? Remember ... when we sin we must tell ourselves a lie about what God’s Word says about sin!