

“The Consequences of the Fall”  
(Ephesians 2:1-3)

I. Introduction.

A. Review.

1. We have seen God’s special act of Providence: the Covenant of Works.
2. We have seen the Fall: how Adam sinned and all sinned in him.
3. We have seen what sin is: anyway that we fall short of perfection, of Christ’s likeness.

B. This evening, we’ll consider the effects of the Fall on us:

1. The guilt that sin brings.
2. The corrupting nature of sin.
3. And the misery that sin brings in this life and the life to come.

II. Sermon.

A. First, Adam’s sin brought the whole human race into a state of sin.

1. We are guilty of Adam’s first sin.
  - a. We saw in Romans 5:12, “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.”
  - b. And in verse 19, “through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners.”
  - c. David writes, “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me” (Ps. 51:5).
  - d. Of course, we have added to that guilt many times over by our own sins.

2. But we were also corrupted by that sin.

- a. Our passage tells us, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins” (v. 1).
  - (i) This doesn’t refer to physical death, but spiritual death.
  - (ii) It describes everyone coming into this world: they’re alive in one sense, but death in another.
  - (iii) Spiritual death means to be dead to the things of God, having no desire for Him.
  - (iv) It comes by being void of the Spirit.
  - (v) Adam lost the Spirit’s presence and work through his sin.
  - (vi) By God’s grace, it was restored through Christ.
  - (vii) But when we were conceived, that sin of Adam was reckoned to us.
  - (viii) Because it was, we also had that corrupt nature.
- b. As a result, we hated God and went the way of the devil.
  - (i) “In which [*i.e.*, sin] you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind” (Eph. 2:2-3).
  - (ii) We had no principle of good in us. All we desired was evil.
  - (iii) We may not have thought that of ourselves or others, but it’s only because of God’s restraining grace that we were no worse.
  - (iv) This is the state of sin we are in: guilty of Adam’s sin, our own sin, and corrupt, unable to please God.

B. Second, let’s consider the consequences of being in this state of sin.

1. We lost communion with God.
  - a. This is what Adam lost.
    - (i) He could no longer dwell in God’s presence.
    - (ii) He and Eve were cast out of the garden.

- (iii) He put cherubim at the entrance to keep them out.
  - b. God is too pure to look at sin or dwell in its presence.
    - (i) He is high, exalted and separate from sin.
    - (ii) He cannot have fellowship with sinners.
    - (iii) Adam and Eve had to leave.
    - (iv) For this reason, we also can't have fellowship with God on our own.
  - c. This is the reason why today we can't have fellowship with God apart from a Mediator.
    - (i) When God restored the Spirit to Adam, things were not the same.
    - (ii) His guilt had been covered by Christ.
    - (iii) But he had corruption remaining in him.
    - (iv) The only way he could have fellowship with God now was through Christ, the seed promised to the woman.
    - (v) The same is true for us today: we can't approach God except through a Mediator.
2. We fell under God's wrath.
- a. Adam not only lost fellowship, he gained God's anger.
    - (i) When the Scripture says that God appeared in the "cool of the day" (Gen. 3:8), it doesn't mean He was strolling in the garden.
    - (ii) It means He appeared in the Spirit of the Day: the day of Judgment.
    - (iii) Adam and Eve hid themselves from Him for fear.
    - (iv) When He said, "Where are you?", it probably was in anger.
    - (v) He knew they had eaten of the tree and disobeyed Him.
  - b. Having that sin credited to us brings about the same result.
    - (i) We "were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest" (v. 3).
    - (ii) God was angry with us.
    - (iii) We were under the curse of the broken covenant of works.
  - c. But thankfully, as we'll see, God's wrath was satisfied and His curse removed in Christ.
    - (i) Jesus took that curse on Himself.
    - (ii) He became the object of God's wrath.
    - (iii) And God poured out His wrath on Him to release us.
3. Finally, we deserved misery in life, death, and hell forever.
- a. This is what Adam deserved for his sin.
    - (i) He deserved to have it hard in his work; Eve deserved to have pain in childbearing – not only the pain of childbirth, but that of raising sinful children.
    - (ii) They both deserved to die and return to the dust.
    - (iii) And they both deserved hell for their rebellion against God.
  - b. And because we are guilty of the same sin, we deserved the same.
    - (i) We deserved all the bad things that make us suffer in life. Jeremiah writes, "Why should *any* living mortal, or *any* man, offer complaint in view of his sins" (Lam. 3:39)?
    - (ii) We deserved death for our sin: "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).
    - (iii) And we deserved the fiery hell: God's wrath poured out justly on sinners for all eternity.
    - (iv) Unless we understand that we do, we'll never understand the grace of God.
    - (v) He doesn't give salvation to those who aren't so bad, but to hell-deserving sinners.
    - (vi) We must never forget that or cease to thank God that He has delivered us from our sins.

### III. Application.

#### A. Remember, God views Adam's sin as our own.

1. We are guilty of his sin.
2. We have sinned many more times.
3. We hated God.
4. We deserved all the bad that could have come from this – misery, death, and hell.

#### B. But what Paul goes on to tell us, and as we saw this morning, God gave us something we didn't deserve.

1. God sent His Son to save us.
2. And He has saved us, if we are trusting in Christ this evening.
3. Jesus has suffered death, hell and the grave and overcome it for us.
4. Let's prepare to acknowledge this and show our thankfulness now by preparing to come to the Table. Amen.