



The Fall of the First Family

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Genesis 3:1–6

1. Shame

Genesis 3:7–10; Revelation 3:18; Isaiah 61:10

2. Blame

Genesis 3:11–13

3. Fame

Genesis 3:20; Genesis 3:16; Acts 3:25

What is the Holy Spirit saying to me through this message?

All scripture is from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.



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Series: Broken – Repairing the Family

Session: The Fall of the First Family

I. Introduction

This is a new series called “Broken – Repairing the Family”

So the first lesson of this new series is called “The Fall of the First Family”. So we are going to be talking about Adam and Eve not Barack and Michelle Obama.

I don't know if you've ever thought about this, but you have biological characteristics from Adam and Eve. We are all descendants from Adam and Eve, no matter where you came from. We have physical, biological characteristics from Adam and Eve. Do you think it's possible that we have spiritual characteristics from Adam and Eve? Do you think that we have spiritual genetic tendencies because of the fall of the first family?

Before these verses (Genesis 3:1-6), every person on earth, though few, was in a perfect relationship with God and each other. In just a few verses, every person on earth was in a splintered, broken relationship with God and each other.

Genesis 3:1-6. (As you read) Notice that Satan immediately casts doubt. And he immediately says that God's word is wrong. Notice that her husband was with her!

¹Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” ²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

What entered into every family in the world in one millisecond? Sin. What all came with sin? There were 3 things that came with sin that we see here in Genesis.

II. Shame – Genesis 3:7-10; Revelation 3:18; Isaiah 61:10

Shame is the #1 characteristic that sin brings with it.

Genesis 3:7-10. Notice the question God asks him: Who told you that you were naked? Notice that before they hid from God, they hid from each other.

⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. ⁸And they heard the sound of the

LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?”¹⁰ So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

Revelation 3:18. So immediately there’s this shame. I remember when I was young I would always lock the bathroom so my brother wouldn’t walk in on me naked. Adam and Eve didn’t have this shame, fear. Why would they cover up? Who is going to see them, a bunch of monkeys? Your pets have seen you naked, I’m sure, and you don’t care about that. It was a sense of shame that made them cover up. We have a sense of shame over our physical and spiritual nakedness.

¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

Isaiah 61:10. In Revelation he is talking about spiritual garments to clothe our spiritual shame: Salvation, the robe of righteousness. The only solution to our shame is the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
My soul shall be joyful in my God;
For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
As a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments,
And as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels.

Has anyone here experienced shame before? How many of you have really blown it? It could be something you said, being addicted to something, etc. We have all experienced shame. Satan will tell us that there is no one as bad as you, no one who has screwed up as many times as you have, no one who is more of a hypocrite than you are. And you know what? He’s right. You are a shameful sinner. **BUT GOD! BUT GOD!** Listen the blood of Jesus cleanses your past, present, and future! He has forgiven you of it all and forgotten it! *Jesus bore your sin and your shame on the cross so you can be set free from shame.*

III. Blame – Genesis 3:11-13

The second thing that sin brought was blame.

Genesis 3:11-13. By the way, this has been going on for 4000 years ladies. Notice the separation that sin brings. Immediately they are separated from God, but they are separated from each other too. In one sentence Adam blamed 2 people: “The woman You gave me...”

¹¹ And He said, “Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” ¹² Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, “What *is* this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Before sin entered into the world, everyone was in a right relationship with God and each other. Once sin entered in, everyone was in a fractured, broken relationship with God and each other. Whenever we mess up in life, we tend to blame God...and others. It's not my fault I'm like this. We look around for someone to blame.

- Whenever I played basketball, I blamed the refs and others on my team whenever we lost.

Another word for blame is accusation. We accuse people. Accusation comes from the accuser of the brethren: Satan.

IV. Fame – Genesis 3:20; Genesis 3:16; Acts 3:25

I want to be important, I want to be recognized. I want you to notice what Adam immediately does after they sinned.

Genesis 3:20. Adam immediately separated from his wife. God did not name her Eve. What was Eve's name before the fall? Her name was Adam.

²⁰ And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Genesis 5:2 (King James) – God called THEIR name Adam. Her name was Adam female, Adam woman. His name was Adam male, Adam man. After God created woman before the fall, Adam said she was bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. In chapter 2 Adam says we are one. In chapter 3, Adam says we are different.

² Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

He calls her the mother of all living. What is so bad about being a mother? Adam labelled Eve. He said her job is to bear him kids. Women have struggled with this for 6000 years. Is my purpose just to bear kids? Is this what I'm created to do, to be a child producing machine? Many women go through depression when their kids leave the house because they fill like they have fulfilled their purpose and there's nothing else to live for. This is not your purpose. Having and raising children is not the purpose of women. God has a purpose, a gifting, and a calling for everyone on this earth, male and female.

Your highest call is not that of a father or a mother but of a child of God. We even say it all the time: God, Family, and Business.

This is a labelling that is in every family. Think about this: Aren't you so-and-so's son, younger brother, sister? Your dad was a good brick mason, your brother was a star football player, and your sister was valedictorian. Kids will start going the other way; they want to be known for something, even though it may be bad.

How many times have you seen America's Funniest Home Videos about a girl dancing or whatever and her little brother comes scooting along in front of her to be seen. 9 times out of 10 he is picking his nose. He wants to be seen and noticed as well.

Another way we label people is this: you know Joe, everyone knows Joe, and he's the black sheep of the family. He has always done his own thing.

Genesis 3:16. God is speaking to Eve. This sounds good doesn't it, this doesn't sound good does it? If you're a man, you're like wohoo. But this is part of the curse from sin. We were never supposed to be dominators or rulers over our wives but servant leaders. "Your desire" shall be for your husband means to be independent from and to dominate. These are the consequences of sin. You are always going to try to dominate him, but he's going to dominate you.

¹⁶To the woman He said:

"I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;
In pain you shall bring forth children;
Your desire *shall be* for your husband,
And he shall rule over you."

In Christ, the curse is broken. In Christ, we serve and love each other, we don't compete or dominate.

We continue to compete with people when we grow up too. We talk about how large our house is, how fast our car is, and how smart our kids are.

What is the answer to sin? Jesus is the answer. **Jesus was born on this earth into a family!** Why? Because He came to repair the family.

Acts 3:25. The seed is Jesus. All the families of the earth will be blessed because of Jesus Christ. He came to redeem the family. Shame is the first characteristic of sin in the family. If you will allow Jesus to take care of shame in your life, that will take care of many other things.

²⁵You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

William Cowper (pronounced "Cooper" by the English) was born in Great Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, England, on November 15, 1731. He was privileged to be born into the home of an English clergyman while his mother was from a prominent family of English royalty. In preparation for his life's work, he was educated in private schools as a small child and at Westminster School, earning a degree in law. With that degree he later passed his bar examination and was licensed to practice as a solicitor in the lower courts of the English justice system.

In spite of his intellectual achievements, William Cowper was physically frail and emotionally sensitive throughout his childhood. One of the traumatic experiences that contributed to his emotional instability was the death of his mother when he was only six years old. Unable to properly deal with this grief that he experienced as a small child, it stayed with him throughout his life. He never stopped grieving for his mother. Even though he passed his law examination and was licensed as a lawyer, the very prospect of appearing before the bar for his final examination frightened him to the extent that he had a mental breakdown from which he never recovered. As a result, he never practiced law, but preferred the study and writing of literature. Added to the anxiety of his bar examination was an unhappy love

affair that resulted in an unsuccessful suicide attempt. He was, therefore placed in an insane asylum for a period of eighteen months.

While confined in the asylum and suffering from prolonged periods of deep depression he would spend much of his time in reading the Scriptures. Remembering his spiritual upbringing as a child and his concern for the eternal destiny of his soul, he struggled with the question of his salvation and peace with God. One day, while reading the Book of Romans, he was confronted with the words of the Apostle Paul who said:

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God set forth to be a propitiation (satisfaction) through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God" --Romans 3:23-25

While admitting his need of personal redemption and the sufficiency that is in the shed blood of Jesus our great Savior, being convicted by the Holy Spirit, William Cowper realized a personal relationship with Christ and a sense of forgiveness of sin. He, therefore, was gloriously converted at the age of thirty-three years old in 1764.

After partial recovery of his melancholia and mental depression, William Cowper moved into the home of a retired evangelical minister named Morley Unwin. There he received the necessary spiritual encouragement and very patient care at the hands of Rev. Unwin and his wife Mary. After five years Rev. Unwin died and his widow decided it best at the request of Rev. John Newton, to move with her family to Olney, England. William Cowper was invited to move with the Unwin family to Olney and to attend the parish Anglican Church pastored by Rev. Newton who was the author of the hymn, Amazing Grace.

While living in the Olney Parish, William Cowper lived in a small house whose backyard joined the parsonage yard where Rev. Newton and his family resided. Here at the Olney Parish, Newton and Cowper became very close friends and worked together in the writing of religious poetry for the services of the church. Rev. Newton became a spiritual father to Cowper and a real source of needed inspiration in helping him overcome his spells of religious doubts, mental depressions and emotional morbidity.

Even after Cowper's conversion, he endured several periods of time when he seriously doubted the love of God for him and his security as a believer.

Both Newton and Cowper were very talented poets and writers of religious verse and with their combined efforts produced the famous Olney Hymns. This book of 349 hymns became one of the most important contributions to musical worship in evangelical Christianity. Among the 67 hymns written by William Cowper while living at Olney under the patient care of Mrs. Unwin and spiritual inspiration of his pastor John Newton, the hymn that testifies of his final peace with his Savior stands out as one of the anthems of the church and a monument to the sovereign grace of God. While sitting alone one day at his desk in his little house, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and with the words of the prophet Zechariah (13:1) fresh in his mind, he began to pen these comforting words:

There is a fountain filled with blood
drawn from Immanuel's veins
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains...



The Fall of the First Family

Focus The curses of shame, blame and fame entered the world through the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, but Jesus came to redeem us from these curses.

Open What is the first thing you think of when you wake up in the morning?

Read God designed the family, and it was good—until Adam and Eve fell to the Devil’s deception and disobeyed God (Genesis 3). Immediately, they hid from one another and from God, blamed others for their mistake and sought to have a separate identity from one another. In this way, a spirit of shame, blame (accusation) and fame (competition) entered the world. The effects of these curses have been plaguing families ever since.

The good news is this: Jesus came to redeem us and our families from the curses that came on mankind through Adam (Romans 5:17–19). Jesus’ righteousness covers our shame, which in turn, heals the issues we may have with accusation and competition.

- Talk**
1. The immediate result of sin is shame. How is shame different than remorse? Why is shame toxic (to us as individuals and to our families)?
 2. What do people commonly do to “cover” their shame?

3. Why is blame-shifting a natural by-product of shame in our lives? How does it affect us and our families?
4. Until the fall, Adam and Eve were one—both in name and in spirit. After the fall, Adam “labeled” Eve. Why is labeling others or oneself so harmful? Why can it cause a competitive or fame-seeking spirit?

Live

1. Which would you say that you struggle with the most: shame, blame or fame? Why do you think that is? How has that been evident in your life?
2. How can you begin to “live out” Romans 5:17–19 and receive greater freedom from the curse this week?

Pray

Thank God for Jesus’ redeeming work on the cross that sets us free from the curse. Ask Him to free you so you can experience family life the way God intended for it to be. Tell God which one of the three you feel you are struggling with most (shame, blame or fame). Ask Him to help you understand His grace more completely that you might be freed from shame. Pray for each member of your family to receive grace and healing as well.