

### **The Aftermath of Sin's Victory, part 3**

Genesis 3:14-19

(preached Pine Grove 8/5/18; Sunday PM)

#### **Introduction**

Over the next few weeks and months, much will be in the new about Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

His confirmation process will probably begin in September as lawmakers consider his fitness to be one of 9 Supreme Court justices..

One of the central issues with Kavanaugh will be his views on abortion.

Kavanaugh is pro-life and his appointment to the Supreme Court would make it possible for abortion to once again be illegal in the United States.

Ever since Roe vs. Wade in 1973, abortions on demand have been possible anywhere in our country..

Since that year, over 60 million children have been aborted in the United States.

However, Kavanaugh's appointment to the high court would clear the way for Roe vs. Wade to be overturned and for millions of babies lives to be saved.

As a result, much of the confirmation process will be Kavanaugh defending his pro-life views while those in favor of abortion will attack..

Phrases like “a woman’s right to choose,” or a “control over a woman’s body” will be thrown around..

And it will be in the news cycle for months as the confirmation process drags on...

Now as Christians we are clearly pro-life.

In fact, anyone who calls himself or herself a believer but supports abortion is either a false convert or the newest of believers because the Bible is clear on abortion.

God is the author of life.

Therefore God is the giver and taker of life.

Anyone who murders a baby in the womb acts contrary to God.

Anyone who murders a baby in the womb commits the sin of murder.

Anyone who supports the murdering of babies in the womb also acts contrary to God..

Now can abortions be forgiven?

Absolutely!

The only unforgivable sin is the sin of rejecting Christ.

Every other sin is forgivable through the death of Christ on the cross..

In Jesus' death, he paid for the sin of those who commit murder..

Nothing is being his forgiveness even the sin of rejecting him..

In light of these issues that will be in the news over the next few months in terms of abortion, we have a great perspective to listen to them..

Not only do we have a biblical worldview, we have also been looking at the curses that came into the world as a result of Adam and Eve's sin in the garden..

Primarily, the sin led to death.

Adam and Eve are going to die due to their disobedience, but death is also introduced into the world..

Death is a reality for all..

Animals, plants die, people die.

Babies in the womb die.

Babies who are aborted die..

Death now surrounds us because of our sin..

Yet, while death is the ultimate consequence of sin, it is not the only consequence..

God is also going to pass out curses to the three parties that introduced sin into the world..

Satan is going to be cursed, which we look at for the past two weeks..

Eve and the women after her are going to be cursed, which we began last week, and Adam and the men after him are going to be cursed which we will get to next..

Now let's do a quick review by reading about these curses in Genesis 3:14-19...

***14 The Lord God said to the serpent,  
"Because you have done this,  
Cursed are you more than all cattle,  
And more than every beast of the field;  
On your belly you will go,***

*And dust you will eat  
All the days of your life;*

*15*

*And I will put enmity  
Between you and the woman,  
And between your seed and her seed;  
He shall [d]bruise you on the head,  
And you shall bruise him on the heel.”*

*16*

*To the woman He said,  
“I will greatly multiply  
Your pain [e]in childbirth,  
In pain you will bring forth children;  
Yet your desire will be for your husband,  
And he will rule over you.”*

*17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened  
to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree  
about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not  
eat from it’;*

*Cursed is the ground because of you;  
In [f]toil you will eat of it  
All the days of your life.*

*18*

*“Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you;  
And you will eat the [g]plants of the field;*

*19*

*By the sweat of your face  
You will eat bread,  
Till you return to the ground,  
Because from it you were taken;*

*For you are dust,  
And to dust you shall return.”*

And we have divided these verses up into this little outline..

**I. The Serpent's Sentence (14-15)**

**II. The Woman's Woe (16)**

**III. The Man's Misery (17-19)**

So far, we have made it through the serpent's sentence and the halfway through the woman's woe..

So let's pick back up in verse 16 tonight as God is delivering the sentence to the woman...

## **II. The Woman's Woe (16)**

As I said last week starting out, life for women has historically been hard..

Not only do they battle their own sinfulness and the sinfulness of those around them, they also feel the weight of God's curse here..

In fact, God cursed Eve and all women in the center of their world, which is often their families..

If you look at verse 16, the curse on the woman has two parts..

The first part of the curse is difficulty in having and raising children..

As we said last week, the curse is not just the physical pain of pregnancy and childbirth, it also includes the emotional and spiritual pain of raising children in the world..

Yes, there is difficulty in pregnancy and giving birth..

Many women even die today as a result of either...

But on top of those physical challenges, women must deal with children who get sick...

Or with children who rebel..

Or with children who disrespect their authority...

Women deal with children who die or run away..

As much joy as children bring, they also bring  
heartbreak for mothers..

Yet, we also ended last week with hope because 1  
Timothy tells us that having and raising children can also  
relieve some of this curse as well...

1 Tim 2:15...

***15 But women will be [j]preserved through the bearing  
of children if they continue in faith and love and  
sanctity with [k]self-restraint.***

God's promise to ease the curse of children is simple..

If women will live a life of faith and love and holiness  
and self-control and teach their children to do the same,  
life for women does have to be lived under the full  
effects of the curse..

In fact, women can be preserved or saved from all the ill  
effects of the curse if they will simply love and obey  
Christ and teach their children to do likewise..



Sadly, that is not all of the curse on women...

Verse 16 continues...

***Yet your desire will be for your husband,  
And he will rule over you."***

As I said last week, not only does a woman have to deal with little sinners at her feet, she also has been cursed with a big sinner that she marries..

Now what is the basis of the woman's curse in regards to her husband..

Well, the first part of the curse is that Eve's sin in the garden will give her a desire for her husband...

Well, what does that mean?

Does that mean that she will desire him physically?

Well, it can hardly mean that.

She already desires him physically.

They have been married and been told to be fruitful and multiply...

That physical desire was already there..

So what is this desire?

Well, the best place to understand this is to flip forward to Genesis 4....

There we find the familiar story of Cain and Abel, who are Adam and Eve's first children...

We will look at it in more detail in a few weeks, but for now let's just review it beginning in verse 1..

***1 Now the man [a]had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to [b]Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a [c]manchild with the help of the Lord." 2 Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 So it came about [d]in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. 4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; 5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.***

As these boys grow into men and bring a sacrifice to God, He accepts Abel's and rejects Cain's.

This leads Cain to sulk and pout and get angry at God...

Yet, the Lord is gracious and slow to anger, so this is what we read in the very next verse...

***6 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, [e]will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”***

Rather than destroying Cain, God shows mercy to him...

He even offers an opportunity for Cain to go and get an acceptable sacrifice, saying “if you do well.”

In other words, Cain can correct his error.

He can repent of his disobedience and do the right thing..

But the thing to take note of here is the last part of verse 7..

***“sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”***

God tells Cain that sin is at his door and sin’s desire is for him..

In other words, the desire of sin is to control Cain.

To enslave Cain.

To overpower Cain...

And we know that but the Lord's final word to him.

“Cain, sin wants to master you, but you must master it.”

We will talk about what that means when we get to chapter 4, but the note to make is that the sentence in chapter 4 and in chapter 3 are nearly identical...

In chapter 4, sin desires Cain.

In chapter 3, the woman is cursed and that curse causes her to desire her husband..

In other words if we go back to Genesis 3:16, the second part of the curse on the woman is that she will desire to master her husband, but he will rule over her...

Now we don't have to imagine how this looks in the world...

WE see it all around us as women in general try to rule over men..

We probably see it most frequently in the home where marriages are dominated by the wives and their desires..

This is exactly what happened in the first marriage in history..

Eve was led into disobedience and she then led her husband to do the same.

Adam didn't even put up a fight when Eve told him to eat the fruit..

Here is what Genesis 3:6 says..

***6 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 desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.***

You can picture the scene...

Eve is in the garden away from her husband.

The serpent approaches.

Eve is led away by Satan's charm..

She eats the fruit.

Adam shows up, asks Eve what is going on?

He sees the bite out of the fruit.

She offers it to him and he says no way.

She gives him those eyes and says “eat it.”

He submits and the whole world is thrown into chaos..

Remember Eve was made as a helper to Adam..

She was taken out of his side to serve as his complement in life.

She was his equal in every way, but when she sinned and led him to sin, she rose above Adam...

She gave to him and Adam ate..

And the curse is this..

You are still going to desire to rule your husband like you did when you gave him the fruit to eat...

Though you are his equal, your desire is going to be his superior, yet God’s curse is that man will have the leadership role...

God cursed the Satan by putting enmity and strife between Satan and Eve...

And now God has cursed Eve by putting strife between her and the man..

This is the difficulty of marriage right..

You have the husband who has been given the leadership role in the family by God..

And you have the wife who wants the leadership role in the home..

And that my friends is the recipe for disaster..

Not only are the husband and wife already sinners, there is this added strife over who takes the lead in the home..

God tells man to lead woman, but because of the curse, man struggles with the woman for that role of leadership.

Now how this plays out in the real world is chaos...

Some men take this leadership role and abuse it.

Men have sinfully dominated and controlled women throughout history..

Men have abused their God-given role as the leader of the home..

Men have even abused women in this struggle for leadership and that is clearly sinful..

On the other hand, women have been equally determined to exercise their desire for authority over men..

Women have criticized men, attacked men..

Women have sought out leadership roles in every area of life..

You even see this in the church as women seek church leadership roles of pastors and elders, though the God in the Bible has designated those roles for men..

In the qualifications for church leaders, they are called to be the husband of one wife, which clearly suggests a man..

Additionally, all the disciples were men...

All the book of the Bible were authored by men..

However, even in the church women have sought authority over men...

So much so that God inspired Paul to write this in 1 Timothy 2:11-14..



***11 A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. 12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. 13 For it was Adam who was first [h]created, and then Eve. 14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, [i]fell into transgression.***

Yet the church is not the only place that women have sought authority men...

As I said before, some marriages are controlled by the woman...

Wives make the decisions for the family..

Wives control the finances..

Wives set the schedules and make the plans...

The world is also full of women having a desire to rule over men..

In short, this second half of the woman's curse is felt nearly everywhere in the world..

Now, let me make this statement as well..

The curse grows because men have allowed it to grow...

Women have sought more authority because men have handed it over to them..

Men who let women lead the family spiritually are shameful...

Men who let women serve the church because they are too lazy are shameful..

Men who let women take control because they are too sinful to lead are shameful..

Yet, ladies none of those deficiencies of men are permission to seize authority that God has given to them..

So what are you to do?

How are to live under this curse?

How can you find contentment and fight your desire to rule over man?

Well, let's turn to the book of Ephesians...

Ephesians 5:18...

The Ephesian church was surrounded by immorality.

The worship of Diana was the dominant religion in Ephesus...

Many in the city would get drunk and do all sorts of immoral things at Diana's temple in Ephesus..

So the letter to the church at Ephesus was to call the Christians there out of that culture and into holiness..

In verse 18, God uses Paul to write this..

***18 And do not get drunk with wine, [l]for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to [m]one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to [n]God, even the Father; 21 [o]and be subject to one another in the [p]fear of Christ.***

The people of Ephesus who had come to Christ were not to go back to their old way of life...

They were to leave their drunkenness behind and instead of filling their bodies with alcohol and other mind altering substances, they were to fill their bodies with the Spirit...

Now clearly, salvation brings the Holy Spirit into our lives.

We are actually filled with the Spirit at salvation...

But the point here is that believers are to live under the authority..

When people are filled with alcohol, they are under the authority of alcohol..

When people are saved, they are filled with the Spirit and they need to live under the control of the Spirit..

Now that truth is really a lead in to verses 22-33, where the Lord uses Paul to tell us how to live as men and women and husbands and wives..

In sense, women will never be relieved or lessened the effects of the curse until they forget about controlling their husbands and learn to be controlled by the Spirit..

Verse 22...

***22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.***

Needless to say but the commands of verses 22-24 are only possible for women who are filled with the Spirit of God...

In other words, your desire to rule your husband and God's curse of him ruling you can only be lessened when you live under the control of the Spirit of God...

You will never submit to your husband if you don't submit to the Lord's Spirit in your life...

Yet if you submit to the Lord, you will submit to your husband and that submission will lessen your desire to rule over him...

And the extent of a woman's submission is clear...

The woman's submits to her husband in the same manner that the church submits to Christ..

In other words, believers don't have an area in their life where they don't have to submit to Christ...

Now, let me make something clear.

The Lord would not expect a woman to submit to her husband if he was causing her to sin or violate Scripture.

The Lord would not expect a woman to submit to her husband who was physically abusive.

And there may other cases which serve as exceptions here..

But the overarching principle is that women can get relief from the curse of Genesis 3:16 when they stop seeking submission from their husbands and begin submitting to Him..

You see, authority is like a drug..

The more you seek it and use it, the more you want it...

And the reality ladies is this..

Until you submit yourself to the Spirit of God, you will never give up your desire to exercise authority over men...

Speaking of men, which we will get more into next week..

How can we men help ease the curse on the woman...

First of all, we need to repent of being unloving leaders..

Yes, the Lord has given us leadership of the woman, but that is not license to run over her..

In fact, what is the next verse of Ephesians 5?

Verse 25..

***25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,***

The simple application to us men is this..

If you want to ease the curse of the woman, be a man who is easy to follow...

Jesus was the greatest leader of all time...

All authority was given to him, yet he washed the disciples feet...

You can lead and serve.

In fact, the greatest leaders are servers of those that they lead..

So husbands, dont be cruel leaders of your wives..

Love them and lead them and they will gladly follow..

Second, husband need to take an active role in leadership..

Look at verse 26..

***25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church [q]in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body.***

Men, if you have been given a leadership role by God and you have, take that leadership role seriously...

Don't be lazy in your leadership..

Don't leave it up to someone else to do it.

Don't let your wife be the spiritual head of your house.

In fact, God says that men are to sanctify the woman here..

In other words, husbands your leadership position requires you to make sure your wives are growing in the Lord..



In fact, your goal of leading your wife is to see her grow in Christlikeness so much that you have no problem presenting her to the Lord..

You are to lead her as aggressively as you lead your own spiritual growth...

Verse 29 says that no man fails to lead his own life, and therefore no man should fail to lead his own wife..

Leadership requires men to be active and loving leaders..

Men who sinfully lead are not honoring their God-given role..

Then Ephesians 5 ends this way..

***31 For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she [r]espects her husband.***

Ladies, the curse is avoidable because God is the one who issued...

Yet, through the power of the Holy Spirit working in your life to make you submissive to male leadership, you can ease the effects of the curse..

And also through the power of the Holy Sprit making men loving leaders who serve and care for the women in their lives can you find yourself able to lovingly respect male leadership...

That brings to close the curse on the woman...

Next Sunday, we will begin to look at the curse on the man...

## **Conclusion**

Let me close with one final thought here for the ladies...

The curse hits you where you life is centered..

The curse makes your children both a joy and a difficulty in life..

And the curse makes your husband both a joy and a difficulty in life..

Yet God has not left you alone to suffer..

There is relief in those areas of the curse..

First, live in faith, in love, in holiness, and in self control and raise kids who do the same and you will find joy in the curse of bringing forth children..

Second, live under the control of the Holy Spirit, and you will find joy in following the God-given leadership of your husband...

But third, God also provides relief from others around you to help you live under the curse in a way that honors him..

Listen to Titus 2:3-5..

***3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, 4 so that they may [b]lencourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.***

Ultimately ladies, the issue of living under the curse in the world is obedience to the word of God..

Yes, life is made harder by the sin of Eve.

Yes, life is made harder by the sinners you give birth to..

Yes, life is made harder by the big sinner you marry..

Yes, life is made harder by your own desire to sin..

But none of that is an excuse not to obey the word of God..

Look everything in your life makes it easy to disobey..

Unruly kids, lazy men, the fallen world around you, yet with all the reason in the world to not follow God's word, you are called to love your husbands and your children so that God's word is honored.

Next week, we will see how well we men are honoring the Word of the Lord in the curse that has come down on us..

Let us pray.