

Week 3

## **A Biblical Theology of Marriage**

### *The Fall (Genesis 3)*

#### **Brief Review**

- Both men and women are made as image-bearers, which means they have equal dignity and value in God's eyes.
- Marriage has a God-designed structure built into it. Men are called to lead, and women called to come alongside of their husband to be his partner.
- God has created marriage with certain ideal parameters.
- God is at the center of our marriages.

#### **Marriage and the Fall**

***Sin Enters the World:*** Gen 2:25, 3:1-5

- At first, no shame.
  
- The serpent contradicts God and persuades Adam & Eve.

Two lessons:

1. Competing Voices that Threaten Our Marriages
  
2. Our Quest to Be Like God

***Sin Corrupts Vertical and Horizontal Relationships:*** Gen 3:8-15

- Adam and Eve hide from God.
- Adam blames Eve; Eve blames the serpent.

Two Lessons:

1. Sin Corrupts Our Relationship with God (Vertical)
  
2. Sin Corrupts Our Relationships with our Spouse (Horizontal)

***The Curses:*** Gen 3:16-19

- Desire and Rule.
- Work is now painful and hard.

Two Lessons:

1. Sin Corrupts the Good Marital Order Established by God
  
2. A Fact of Life: Spouses are Sinful, so They will Fail

***God's Merciful Plan:*** Gen 3:15, 21-24

- God denies them access to the tree of life.
- God expels them from the garden.

One last Lesson: God's Immediate and Delayed Mercy

**Your Response to this Lesson:**

1. What are the competing voices that are ruining your marriage? Either talk with your spouse or write out a list. What does the Word of God say in contrast to these voices?
2. What lies do you tell yourself that distract you from God and hurt your marriage?
3. In what ways do you act like God in your marriage? Confess this to both God and your spouse.
4. What marital sins have hurt your relationship with God?
5. What sins plague your marriage?
6. Do you see the dynamic described in Genesis 3:16 in your marriage? If so, think about how to change/break that dynamic.
7. Take some time with your spouse to reflect on how God has been merciful to you both in response to your sin (both individual sin and sin that affects the marriage).