

The Doctrine of Marriage *vis a vis* Obstacles to a Godly Marriage

December 14, 2014



II. Married, but fallen (Genesis 3)

B. What's changed and why?

1. The devil's dream, the devil's fall, the devil's plight.

2. What was Eve's sin in the fall? Adam's? What "knowledge of good & evil" did they receive?

3. The eye of the beholder. Fruit. Nakedness. God. His blessings. Spoiled by sin.

1. What is the devil's dream?

Quenstedt, I, 729: "We may assume that pride was the first sin of the angels. We make this deduction 1) from 1 Tim. 3.6: 'Lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil,' that is, that he may not incur the same condemnation which Satan brought upon himself through arrogance. Thus Chrysostom, Gerhard, and others. . . . 2) From the temptation in which Satan undertook to instill the sin of pride into our first parents, the pride of arrogating to themselves equality with God; 'Ye shall be as gods' [as God]. 3) From his perpetual endeavor to transfer the glory of God to himself. . . . This opinion is approved also by our sainted Luther, on Genesis 1. Basilius Magnus, Cyprian and Barnard join envy with this pride."

From this arrogance came forth the lie of the devil's lust which by its nature can never be satisfied and must remain always unfulfilled (addiction/lust never satisfied). Thus eternal frustration and consternation and laboring after the unattainable results from the lust and darkness into which God cast the devil and his followers.

2. Eve's role in the fall; dissatisfaction with God's Word led her to add her lie to God's truth. Dissatisfaction with God; needing to either censure (remove) God's Word or add to it (as if it were insufficient) is the sign of demonic pride that judges God; that is, that places itself above God. Eve's rejection of the sufficiency of God's Word is thus her rejection of God and his sufficiency, as if he needed something from her to improve. It cast her into lust that can never be satisfied.

Adam's role was spectator and follower. He heeded his wife's lie rather than God's truth so that Eve followed the devil and Adam followed Eve in her fall. Thus as Eve here fails to be Adam's help meet through her fall and comes into service of the devil, his failure to speak God's Word in correction turns him from being her head to her follower in the fall.

The knowledge of good and evil, was thus an experience of evil by what of the devil's dream and lie that permeated them as completely as the knowledge of God and his image had previously permeated them. The nature of man, created thoroughly good, is here thoroughly ruined and tainted in darkness and sin.

3. How does sin change:

how they saw what God had forbidden them? (Still?)

their self image? Is shame self centered or God centered?

their view of God?

their view of each other? When God's not around? When God is around?

Self centeredness ultimately divides us from God, then from the other. Seeking satisfaction in self is a demonic trap. How is this seen in contemporary views of marriage? What is Christ's role to save us from this? What's more important: reconciliation with God or our spouse and why is that an important question?