

"The Curse on the Woman"

Part 2

Genesis 3:16

Introduction: This morning we are very privileged to have the opportunity to enter into another study from the book of *Genesis*. We are currently in the one of the most important chapters found in the Bible. *Genesis* is a book of origins meaning that we find the beginning of many things in this book.

Here in this chapter we find the entrance of sin into the world. You see God had created the world perfectly therefore Adam and Eve lived in a perfect world but that perfect world did not last very long. Shortly after the 6th day of creation Satan tempted Eve into sin, she then gave the forbidden fruit to her husband and he ate; thus we have the entrance of sin into the world.

Now starting in **Genesis 3:14** and going through **Genesis 3:19** we find the consequences of that sin which is in the curse which God pronounced upon the Devil, the woman, and the man. The study of this curse is so very important because without knowledge of the curse you cannot understand the way things are today. A study of the curse gives to us an understanding of all the suffering which we encounter in the world today.

Let me give to you a quick review of what we have looked at so far in our study of the "Consequences of Sin".

I. Curse on the Woman

Part 2

A. The Woman and Her Children

Notice Genesis 3:6

⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

This verse is very important when it comes to understanding the curse found in *Genesis 3:16*. The curse is directly related to what we find here.

In this verse we can see that the woman sought enjoyment and pleasure apart from the Lord. God had given to her and her husband everything they need for a life of fulfillment

and great joy. When she took of the forbidden fruit she was saying that God had not given to her what she needed to be fulfilled and so she ate of the fruit.

Genesis 3:16

¹⁶ *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

In this verse we see that God told Eve He would "multiply her sorrow". We do not have before us the Hebrew text. In our translation the statement here is softened. It could read, "**Causing to be great; I will cause to be great your sorrow**". You see it is a repetitive statement very much like the New Testament statement "**Verily, Verily**". It is there to show the severity of disobedience to God.

Now listen to what I am going to say here because this is the key in understanding the curse on the woman. There are 2 areas of a woman's life generally speaking where she seeks to find her greatest pleasure and enjoyment and that is with her children and her husband. Because she sought enjoyment and pleasure apart from God in the garden she would now experience her greatest pain and sorrow in the 2 areas of her life where she would seek her greatest enjoyment and pleasure and that would be with her children and her husband.

Last week we considered the pain that a woman often experiences with her children and it can be a pain that is almost unbearable at times. Children make choices that break the hearts of their mothers. When a child dies the heart of the mother feels pain that no words can describe.

Eve felt this pain not long after the fall.

Genesis 4:8

⁸ *And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.*

So in the raising of her children she would feel great sorrow and pain. If there had been children born before the fall there would have been no poor choices and there would have

been no death to be concerned about. Each child would have grown into an adult which would have honored and glorified God with their life. Now, because of the fall that is not the case. We all know that the greatest pain a woman can feel is through the lives of her children.

There was also another part of the curse that applied to her children. Her conception would also be increased.

Genesis 3:16

¹⁶ Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

Before the fall women could not conceive as frequently as they do now. The reason I say this is because they were eternal before the fall. If being eternal they could conceive and have children can you imagine how quick the earth would have filled? We don't know how often they could conceive then but it was far less often than it is now.

One more part of the curse in dealing with the woman and her children was after the fall there was pain associated with birthing. That did not exist before.

Last week we also looked at the way the curse can be softened in the woman's life.

1 Timothy 2:13-15

¹³ For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

¹⁴ And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

¹⁵ Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

There are 4 points that must be exercised in order for the curse to be softened in the life of the woman:

1. Her life must be marked by faith in the Lord.
2. Her life must be marked by a love for the Lord.
3. Her life must be marked by Godly living, separated from sin.
4. She must have self restraint.

B. The Woman and Her Husband

Genesis 3:16

¹⁶ *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

Now I want us to look closely at how the curse affects the woman in her life with her husband.

The woman feels some of the greatest pain in her life with her children and when she does there is one thing she desires from her husband and that is comfort and encouragement. But what they desire they do not get from their husbands.

Listen, a man does not have the relationship with his children like his wife does. She carries the children for 9 months she has an attachment with her children that he does not have. If one of the children are in a painful place in their lives the mother carries much weight through the suffering of her children and in those times she needs comfort but the man cannot provide what she needs because he does not feel what she feels. Therefore, there is a conflict between the husband and the wife.

Application:

Let me speak to the young ladies here that are not married and plan to be someday. There will come a time in your when you will need comfort from your husband. A man cannot fully give you the comfort you need but he can really help you out if he is a man of God. Apart from that you will not find a man who can give what you are looking for in the midst of the storms of life.

Let us look closer at the verse and define some words here.

Desire – I have heard it taught this is speaking of a sexual desire. That is not what this means. The sexual desire existed before the fall and it is not a part of the consequences of the fall. You must understand that whatever is a part of the curse is something which is negative.

Think about this for a moment: there would be a conflict between the Devil and the woman, there would be a conflict between the man and the earth (we will see this as we

get into other messages), and there would be a conflict between the woman and her husband.

This "*desire*" is the desire to rule over her husband.

Genesis 3:16

¹⁶ *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

The verse also tells us that he would rule over her. Let's look at the word "rule" for a minute. It means to dominate, to reign, literally means to install in office. The idea is as the woman seeks to overthrow the rank, as the woman seeks to twist the divine order, as the woman seeks to master her husband, seek control over him, he dominates her.

To understand this we must look at the only other place this wording is used in the Bible.

Genesis 4:7

⁷ *If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*

This is the very same phrase. It speaks of sin's desire to rule over Cain and Cain would need to master sin or it would completely control him.

That is the very same thought in Genesis 3:16. The woman desires to rule over and to control her husband and she cannot do it because he resists and so there is the conflict.

This is also directly related to her sin.

Genesis 3:6

⁶ *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

She took the lead in her sin. But in the curse she would lose the control of her husband permanently.

Application:

This can be seen in the lives of husbands and wives today. With some women it is a quiet desire but with others it can be heard at a great distance. It can be seen in who controls the check book or the credit card or whatever it may be but that desire is in all women.

Illustrations:

Let me give you some examples.

1. A man in DC in his 50's and his mom came on payday to pickup his check. Her husband was gone so she desired to rule over her son.
2. Another man in DC that I knew had a wife that was in the military and he worked construction. He came to work one day and told us he rolled his jeep over. We later found out she physically beat him up because he would not agree to do what she wanted.
3. A man I worked with years ago was given 1 dollar a day by his wife and he would save up so he could buy a pack of cigarettes. Between packs he borrowed from everyone else.

So the conflicts which exist in the marriage are a result of the curse that was placed upon the woman.

II. The Plan of God

Now when you begin to understand the curse on the woman you understand why there is such oppression upon the woman today. You begin to understand why there are so many families that are broken. It is because of the conflict which comes as a result of the curse. But all of those thoughts may lead you to ask a question:

Why did God do this?

It is all designed to drive the woman to Jesus Christ. You see if she were able to get the comfort and the sympathy she needed from her husband she would then not see her need of a Savior.

III. The Way to Soften the Effects of the Curse in Relation to Her Husband.

Notice Ephesians 5:22-26, 28

²² *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*

Willingly submit to her husband. Just as we willingly submit to the Lord. We do it not out of fear but out of willingness because it is God's design.

²³ *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*

A family without a head is a family with no order. It is like a chicken with no head.

The thought here is great. Jesus is our Savior and He has saved us from the penalty and the power of sin. The husband becomes the Savior of the wife in the sense he can rescue her from the curse if the family is in the proper order.

²⁴ *Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*

The woman must submit in all things not just certain areas. This is God's designed order.

²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

We are not to dominate our wives. We are to love our wives with a sacrificial love.

²⁶ *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

We are to love our wives with a purifying love. We are to protect them from anything that can harm or contaminate their lives.

²⁸ *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.*

We are to love our wives with a personal caring love.