

INTRO

- Have you ever made a small decision that resulted in a big impact? Explain.
- What is wrong with the world?

Last week, we saw the catastrophic event of the deception, rebellion & downfall of mankind (how sin entered the world). This week we look at the far-reaching consequences and impact of sin.

READ & REFLECT

Read Gen 3:7-19. What are some of the immediate consequences of sin?

1. Internal Shame & Guilt (v7)—they realize their nakedness and hide from one another.

2. Spiritual Alienation (v8)—they hide from God.

3. Blaming & Self-justification (v11-13)—they pass blame and fail to “own their sin”.

4. Relational Breakdown (v16-19)—complementary roles become an ongoing struggle between man/woman and in marriage.

5. Vocational Resistance (v16-19)—mankind's purpose as *imago Dei* is now accompanied with pain, toil and frustration.

6. Physical Decay & Death (v19)—disease, old age, natural disasters & death ensue.

Qu: what most impacted you about sin's nature?

Qu: how do people deal with these consequences today?

In summary, **the nature of sin** breaks and destroys all that is good by alienating our relationship with God, each other, and creation. **The result of sin** is that we fall way short of God's purposes for us; sin has stained everything and everyone.

LIFE BEYOND EDEN

So, how are we to look at life in light of Gen 1-3? In TENSION. It is vital we remember BOTH the goodness of creation AND the fallenness of creation.

Qu: why is it important to look at life in this tension? What happens when we forget one or the other?

Despite a very dark chapter in the Bible—amidst sin, cursing & judgement—are 2 signs of God's redemptive plan (how God will fix our mess):

1. The Gospel

Read Gen 3:15. This is the first announcement of the good news!

- God declares war on the serpent, sin & death.
- God reveals (in part) his plan—2 genealogies:
 - **Seed of the serpent** — lineage of humanity that stays in Gen3 by continuing to believe the serpent's deception & remains rebellious towards God (choosing independence);
 - **Seed of the woman** — God will raise up a people & intervene in their lives & hearts who will see the serpent's lies for what they are and pledge allegiance to God.
- The ultimate triumph over the serpent, sin & death will be carried out by an individual—he will crush the serpent and in doing so, will also suffer.

2. God's Grace

Read Gen 3:20-24.

Qu: what does God provide for Adam & Eve? What is this a picture of?

God banishes mankind from Eden as an act of grace because, for mankind to be forever stuck under the curse of sin, is unthinkable for God. Ever since, our human hearts long for Paradise and God.

Our way back to Eden and to God is through a different kind of tree of life—the Cross.

RESPOND & PRAY

- in what way/s does this part of God's Story encourage & challenge you?
- How will you apply this to your life?
- Pray for one another in light of this discussion.