

# STAYING AWAY

(The effects of sin)

October 18, 2021

**GENESIS 3:9** **ESV - (9)** But the LORD God called to Adam, and said to him, "Where are you?"

Previous verses revealed the first consequence of human sin: shame and guilt. The combination of knowledge, disobedience, and human frailty led to an overpowering urge to be covered and to hide from God. Prior to this, the nakedness of Adam and Eve was nothing to be ashamed of. Their minds were pure and innocent, so there was no reason to be embarrassed or self-conscious. The immediate result of having their eyes opened to good and evil was that the man and woman understood their own evil and the goodness they had lost.

Adam had never hidden from God before. God had never had to ask where the man was. It's not that God did not know, of course. God's question here is no different from any other parent who asks a question to their child, when they already know the answer. God wants Adam to answer, to reveal himself to God, and to confess. It should be noted that the Hebrew word for "you," both here and in **verse 11**, is singular. In other words, at this moment, God is not calling to Eve, or challenging her actions. He is not asking "where are you [two]?" He is specifically asking, "where are you, [Adam]?" Adam, right from the beginning, is treated as the one ultimately responsible for the fall of mankind (**Romans 5:12**).

Sin can affect you in the following ways and remember, sin cannot be measured:

**Physically** – Sin can cause an internal conflict with God and us, leading to health issues and taking a physical toll on your body. Depending on the sin you battle with, it can affect your blood pressure, sleeping patterns or destruct your body depending on your lifestyle choices because of sin.

**Emotionally** – The Bible tells us that walking the wide road or the easy way leads to destruction. Interestingly, this goes beyond physical death and results in emptiness, hopelessness, and brokenness. I think many men go down the path of sin because they are hoping it will fulfill them emotionally. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Many men have experienced guilt, depression and even suicidal thoughts due to the emotional consequences of sin.

**Spiritually** – The most common consequence we understand is spiritual death. You may understand that sin breaks off our relationship with God, which affects us spiritually. On another level, I have seen many men feel they aren't good enough to be in any relationship with God due to their sins. Therefore, they never attempt to turn to or turn back to God (Repent).

Let us today recognize our wrongs and damage to ourselves and others. Repent and walk with God just as Enoch did in the earlier days of life. Because of the things we have been doing, it won't be easy but remember, God is the beginning and the end.

**SCRIPTURE READING: 2 JOHN 1:9-11**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Peace isn't the absence of pain; it is the presence of God in the midst of life's trouble.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"