

# The God Who Doesn't Lie

## The Initial Consequences that erupted from this first rebellion:

1. **If God is the Creator and gives life, then if you detach yourself from this God, if you defy this God, what is there left then?** Death! If you pronounce your independence from God and want to decide your own good and evil, and want to be your own god, what is left then? Death.
2. **Spiritual vs physical death: What's the difference between physical and spiritual death?** You cannot cut yourself off from the God of the bible, without consequences. Death comes into the world, both physical and spiritual, and also a second spiritual death which is eternal separation from God (Hell)
1. **Why does Adam and Eve cover themselves?** No way back to Eden: Adam and Eve immediately feel shame as they try to cover themselves with fig leaves, but moral shame cannot be hidden with fig leaves. If you commit a theft, you can return the items, but the stain of what you have done cannot ever be taken away. If you or I defy God, we cannot undo the defiance. We cover ourselves in shame. There is no way back to innocence. The bible only shows one way forward, TO THE CROSS.
2. **Why is God upset?** Broken fellowship with God. God is betrayed and abandoned for other "gods" even though he was the one that gave them life and intimate fellowship (walking in the garden).
3. **What is the first thing Adam and Eve do when confronted by God?** Broken fellowship with other humans: Adam justifies his decision by blaming Eve, Eve blames the serpent. We are guilty, God is the only one that can provide justification.

## The explicit curses God pronounces:

- a. **First Curse: *To the Serpent*: Is there really going to be enmity between All people and All snakes for the rest of time?** No, God is already promising that from Eve, from the human race, there will be one who crushes the serpent's (Satan's) head. God will still provide a way to salvation and correct standing before him despite this mass rebellion.
- b. **Second Curse: *To the Woman*: How is the birth of new life a painful process?** New life will now be bound with pain and loss. Sin will also be on both sides of the marriage as the woman will want to control and the man being physically stronger will just brute force to get his way. The marriage relationship is corroded.
- c. **Third Curse: *To the Man*: The whole created order is no working properly now. It is under a curse and even working the ground for food will be hard and painful.**

## The Long-Term Effects from the rebellion:

- d. **Gen 3:21 – If God uses garments of skin, then what must have happened?** blood has been shed – a sacrificial animal. At this point, a sacrificial system does not exist yet.

- e. **Why does God not say “take those dumb fig leaves off and just expose yourselves and be honest with each other. Do this and lets get back together again and live happily ever after”?** There is no way back. God knows they need to be covered. There is so much shame to hide.
- f. **How is this animal death a picture of what is to come?** Genesis 3 and the first sacrifice to “cover” Adam and Eve is a picture of what is to come.
- g. John 1:29. Jesus is declared to be the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”. Our own shame and guilt is addressed because he died in our place. A lamb, a goat, a bird cannot do that. This is the first step of an entire institution of sacrifices all meant to point us finally to the supreme sacrifice and what Jesus did to take away our sin and cover up our shame.

## How does all this fit into our lives?

1. How are we “Adam” and “Eves” as well?: The fall makes much more sense of the moral dilemmas and twisted living in the world than any other explanation. It’s hard to imagine people volunteering to make sacrifices and even die for the sake of others, taking pain their places, all in order to “improve the human race” or because “evolution or natural selection demands it”
2. **Evil is in horizontal and vertical terms: What’s the difference?**
  - a. **Evil at the horizontal level is important.** The bible has many condemning things to say about how we treat others and the hurtful things that are said and done among humanity.
  - b. **Evil at the vertical level is where idolatry lies.** What the bible most frequently says makes God angry is idolatry. The person most offended in Chapter 3 is God. This is the most supreme evil.
3. **What does Genesis 3 show that we need the most?** Saving and forgiveness. Deliverance!