

## The Great Fall of Man: Defining the Depravity of Man

By Pastor Rommel

**8 Then they heard the sound of Yahweh God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Yahweh God in the midst of the trees of the garden. 9 Yahweh God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” 11 And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12 And the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave to me from the tree, and I ate.” 13 Then Yahweh God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” Genesis 3:8-13**

The story of Genesis account particularly the fall of man was not a myth or a legend but real inspired historical narratives and written by Moses. It happened more than 6,000 years ago. The sin of man is real. We are sinful people who continue to violate God’s commands. This is bad news. The good news is we need a Saviour and a Redeemer who can make us clean and holy in the eyes of God.

In this article, we will learn the effects of the fall of Adam and Eve. How the fall changed their lives from being pure and holy people to depraved corrupt people of the world. This is the result of the great fall of man. From the most holy prestigious position of living with God to the most devastating position of separation from God. The fall of Adam and Eve we inherited makes us also unholy and corrupt. Whether you believe it or not we are living in bondage of sin, corruption, and depravity. All the depravity and corruption of Adam and Eve after the fall we all inherited. This is the bad news. We are all guilty and deserve disfellowship with God. We are all fallen sinners and blamers. We blame and destroy each other and we run away from God’s presence most of the time. Many people today blame God when confronted with guilt and shame. People today will not accept personal responsibility for their failures, mistakes, and sins. What the world does accept is victimhood. People are victims of an unjust and unfair society. They will not confess their sin but blame others and blame God.

Let us see how Adam and Eve showed the effect of their fall and how their fallen nature made them deserve separation from God and away from the Garden of Eden. The crucial part of identifying and defining the corruption and depravity of man is the response of man to God’s pursuing grace.

As we read Genesis 3:1-7, Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. They gave into the temptation of the serpent the devil. What we know about the two trees in the garden: The first tree was the Tree of Life. This means there is life in the garden with God. The Second tree was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This means there is good and evil and there is separation and death. The man was commanded along with the woman not to eat the fruit of

the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Choosing the forbidden fruit and eating it is a death sentence and separation from God. After Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command and ate the forbidden fruit what happened? Their eyes become open. Now they can see. They can see the ugliness and the imperfections of their bodies, hearts, and minds. Now they saw their naked bodies and became conscious and haunted by their evil conscience as human beings. They sensed their bodies and skin began to feel pain, hurt, scratches, bites, heat, and cold. Feel the harsh wind and heat of the sun. So they are naked and feel dirty so they needed to cover their bodies. They have now shame and guilt. So they sewed fig leaves to cover their naked bodies from their upper body down to their hips. They need to cover their bodies because they sensed separation and alienation from a holy God. They now have a marred relationship and fellowship with God, and they become unholy in their own eyes. They saw in their hearts their impurities and awkwardness to meet God. They become limited and restricted in the garden. They now know the truth of their state with God no more peace, no more joy in the garden, and problematic with themselves.

Now their eyes were open, they saw the imperfections of their bodies, marred conscience, and unholy actions. But the question is did Adam and Eve see how they displease God? Did they accept their fall? Did they acknowledge and confess their sin and disobedience to the command of God not to eat the forbidden fruit? Let us begin our passage Genesis 3:8-13 and go through verse by verse accounts of the effect of the fall of man. **Verse 8 Then they heard the sound of Yahweh God walking in the garden in the cool of the day**, The word “**then**” was transitional. It is like saying after some time or it could be after they have done their violation against God's decree and command that same day God appeared in their midst. The man and the woman both of them heard the sound of Yahweh God. They heard the movement of God or they felt the nearness of God in their midst where they were hiding. It was obvious God's presence was near and it seems coming to them. That is what they heard the voice or the sound of Elohim the Triune God was near. God's presence was being heard, the presence of God is His voice. Both of them should know the voice of the Lord their God walking in the garden and they should come out and show respect and worship. The garden of Eden by definition is a garden of God where the Lord God dwells. Both disregarded the presence of God.

Ironically, Adam and Eve heard God is near which means the power and glory of God was in their midst and walking and making His presence felt but they didn't excitedly show up and greet God and bow down to God their Maker. The proper response of a right and worshipful heart is to show reverence and respect to God and appear right away in obedience to His glory and presence. The sound of Yahweh God was a call to show up and appear before God. Like a call to worship. The

presence of God is here in our midst. But the man and the woman did not go out even though they knew God was near.

The Lord was walking in the cool of the day. The cool day could mean a fair weather wind and having a cool afternoon day. It is like saying it was a perfect day and a beautiful cool day afternoon. Not hot nor humid or windy and cold. Just fair weather. Cool of the day. But the cool of the day here can be the wind of the day or a strong wind hovering over the garden. The wind was supposed to be normal for the man and the woman but the cool or the wind might be like a strong gusty wind like a storm like wind. I remember in the book of Job 38:1 where the Lord answered Job “Out of the storm.”

However, they should both pay respect and honour the presence of the Lord God in the cool of the day. What did they do, **“and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Yahweh God in the midst of the trees of the garden.”** We do not know how many hours from the time they ate the forbidden fruit in the garden and found themselves naked and hiding from the presence of God. The author of Genesis acknowledged that both Adam and Eve were husband and wife. They have a physical marriage relationship. They already expressed their love for each other intimately. This husband and wife were blessed by God as a holy married couple now hiding from God. Hiding away from the glory and blessing of God. They think they can hide from Yahweh God who is omniscient and all-knowing. Who is everywhere. God who created the garden knows the ins and outs of the garden and who formed and drew the blueprint of the garden. They think God cannot see them. We don't know how long will they hide behind the thousands of trees. Maybe they were also near the Tree of Life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you ask me, why were they hiding away from God? The answer is the depravity of man. This is the effect of the fall. The first scene or example of the depravity of man is they didn't show respect by not showing up and rejecting the voice of God. The second example they hid from God. Can you imagine they ran away from the presence of a gracious and loving God this is the depravity of man. If God does not pursue them, we do not know how long will they hide from the presence of the Lord. But it seems they are willing to hide from God for the rest of their lives in the garden of God. This is the effect of sin. This is the depravity and corruption of man. Now men become rebellious and stubborn. We become fugitives running away and hiding from God. But God is gracious and needs to confront them and pursue them so they can restore their fellowship with God and receive back the joy of their salvation.

The Lord needed to take the initiative to talk to them and confront them of their sin and corruption. **Verse 9 Yahweh God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”** Now the Lord God called the man not the woman at the start of confrontation. Why Adam first? Because the

first person who received the command not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was the man and not the woman. The Lord said to Adam, “Where are you, Adam.” “Where are you Ish.” This rhetorical question was a question of interrogation asking a legal question before the verdict of guilt. But at the same time, the call of God “Where are you” was a call of grace. A call of care. Inviting Adam to come out and confess his sin, repent from hiding and from running away, and be restored by God. This is not only a court trial question but a call for forgiveness and restoration. God can say, “Adam I was looking for you. I will punish you now to hell you stubborn and rebellious man. You must die now!” But the Lord didn’t say that. God was gracious and wanted the man to humble himself before his righteous judge confess his sin and ask for forgiveness.

Yahweh God was looking for Adam not because He is not omniscient or all-knowing. God wants Adam to come out from where he was hiding, mourn, cry out, confess, and humbly acknowledge his disobedience and sin. The call of court question by God was a show of grace and mercy willing to forgive only if Adam would confess. A call to repentance was a call of justice and mercy. Adam missed the call of a pursuing God willing to embrace and forgive him and his wife. For Adam not to call on God for help and to seek God is the effect of his depravity or his now fallen nature (Romans 3:11). It was God who seeks His people. It was God who pursues His own people, to find and look for His children from where they are hiding so they can be restored. It was God who sought Adam and not Adam who sought God. God knows the effect of the fall. Men like Adam and Eve become desperately sick, corrupt, and depraved and will choose to run instead of restoration.

Now let us see how Adam responded to the gracious call of God. **Verse 10** **And he said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”** The man came out behind the trees and responded to the call of his God. He acknowledged God’s voice and he heard Him walking and calling his name. Adam responded by telling God that he was afraid. The word afraid in Hebrew is to be fearful. There is fear in his heart and mind. Fear of God’s punishment because they were naked. Now Adam was afraid of God, afraid of the presence of God’s voice and the glory of God. Afraid of dying in the presence of God because their nakedness makes them alienated from God who is holy and now they see themselves as unclean and unholy. This is the result of the fall. Now Adam was afraid of God’s presence. He saw his body naked and was ashamed to be seen by God. Before the fall, he has no shame and no fear of God’s presence. They were not afraid to face God in their nakedness. Now because their eyes were open, there was shame in their nakedness, they saw sexual impurities of mind and heart. They now have sexual consciousness. They were afraid of seeing the evil things in their body and mind. Their nakedness becomes an unholy scene, with imperfections, and sensuality. The feeling of nakedness is a show of their guilt. And they

knew they ruined and destroyed their relationship and fellowship with their Holy God. Aside from being afraid and naked before the holy God, they hid from God. The Hebrew word to hide is “**haba**.” Basically, the man was hiding in fear that the Lord His God would punish and kill him. The words: afraid, naked, and hid are new words from Adam. A new vocabulary for him to use. Adam who was perfectly holy before the fall has been serving Yahweh His Lord God, cultivating the garden and keeping it for the glory and his worship service to the Lord, and now, he is afraid, naked, and hiding from the presence of God. This is the effect of the depravity of man: Afraid, naked, and hiding.

Now in the following verses 11-13, what we can see here is shreds evidence of man’s depravity in heart and words. God will ask a series of rhetorical questions to the man and the woman and see how both of them answered God. **Verse 11** **And He said, “Who told you that you were naked?”** It was an excellent question from God who knows everything. It is like saying where did you get that word? We don’t use that word naked here in the garden. It is a curse word. That is a bad word. Who informed and gave you that information and revelation. Tell me who said you are naked? You are afraid because you are naked and now you are hiding. You have been in the garden for sometime enjoying the fruits of the trees and the woman I gave you and married you for life, your helper and companion suitable for you for life. Now the Lord God Yahweh asked another question, **“Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?””** God is God and it is obvious God knows everything. God knew what happened but the Lord still asked the question. Have you eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? You are commanded not to eat the fruit of that tree. You know the command, the restriction, and your boundary in the garden. The command was a clear instruction from God to Adam. God is the ruler and the authority. Adam was a steward and given the privilege to rule and manage the land and cultivate it and keep it. And the command was not to eat the forbidden fruit. That was the law of God. That was the structure of paradise. Adam violated the law of the land.

The man responded in blame. Instead of confessing his sin and disobedience to the command of His God. What did the man say to God? **Verse 12** **And the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave to me from the tree, and I ate.”** — Now Adam was blaming the woman who is his wife and partner for life. The one to whom he expressed his feelings poetically and romantically, “flesh of my flesh and bone of my bones.” Now I have a partner and a helper suitable for me as a man. Not only in sexual relationship but in cultivating the garden and keeping it. But Adam doing a blame game instead of confessing his sin and asking for forgiveness and renewing his relationship and fellowship with his God. His response was to blame the woman he loves. The blame

game is for God to save his neck by reminding God who gave the woman to him. To blame the woman means the woman was not a great partner and helper. She is more to blame and should receive punishment than me. It also means, "I do not need the woman. She deserves to die more than me. Punish her not me Lord. I didn't ask for a woman and to have a sexual partner." Now I am naked and afraid because of the woman you gave to me. And this woman tempted me, she gave me the forbidden fruit and I ate it. The most guilty party here is the woman you gave me. She is responsible. She tempted me. She should be blamed. Right God. I was just quiet and passive. The woman you gave me should be blamed." Who is to be blamed here? Now the man was not only blaming the woman but blaming God. Why? Who gave the woman to the man? God. It was God who gave the woman to Adam. So it all points to God's sovereign action. God's ways are not perfect and good. Adam was innocent. Adam was a victim. Adam didn't sin.

This is the effect of the fall and of the corruption, and depravity of man. Man inherited sin from Adam and the effect of sin is for life corruption and depravity regardless of age. Man blames other people but not him. Man will not say sorry. Man's depraved heart will run, will hide, will not confess, and will blame others and ultimately blame God. Man becomes selfish and self-centred. This is how Pastor John Macarthur defines depravity.

We become sinful and corrupt. We are depraved people through and through. We are really dead to sin. The corruption and depravity of man is for life. Like having a cancer or disability for life. The disease is for life and till we die. Depravity will continue to manifest in our lives, in our marriages, in our homes and families, in the communities, in government, and our churches. That is why there is divorce, sexual immorality, adultery, murder, lying, gossiping, conflict and war, and rebellion all because we are depraved people after the fall. We blame, we run, and hide. People will continue to deny sin, deny their guilt, and rebellion toward God. They will remain innocent as long as they can still run and hide. No acknowledgment of sin till they die. They will deny rape and murder or stealing and lying. No plan of being right with God. No desire to seek and ask God to restore the joy of their salvation and fellowship with God. This is our depravity. It is the woman. It is the serpent. and it is you, God. This is the depravity and corruption of man all started in Genesis 3, the fall of man.

At this point, God did not say anything yet to Adam. And by the way, Adam should be the protector and defender of the woman he loves, his wife, helper, and partner in serving God. Now Adam cannot protect the woman because he believed he was a victim and he blamed his wife for all the mess. He did not accept his culpability, weakness, failure, and sin. He was unrepentant and unwilling to confess and acknowledge his sin. Then God went to the woman. **Verse 13 Then Yahweh**

**God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”** Now God asked the woman despite of God who knows everything. God’s heart and motive were to make the woman acknowledge her sin, confess her sin before God, and be restored by God. But how did the woman reply to God? The phrase **“What is this you have done”** suggests the actual scene of the temptation between the serpent and the woman and how the woman ate the forbidden fruit. The woman and her man fell into temptation and became afraid of seeing their naked bodies so they hid from God. Instead of humbly confessing her sins and acknowledging her disobedience to the Word of God she blamed the serpent. **And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”** She followed the unwilling stubborn heart of her husband. She did not confess her sin, she did not express her guilt and repentance but blamed the serpent who deceived and tempted her to eat the forbidden fruit.

Who is this serpent and how did the serpent deceive the woman? The word serpent or snake in Hebrew is nachash or nahas (ahas in Tagalog). I believe the serpent was the devil. He used the serpent to tempt the woman. The devil possessed the serpent and made the serpent talk. The devil knew who to tempt first, so the serpent went to the woman. The serpent knew the woman was weak and fragile creature of God and deceived the woman. The word deceived means to lead astray, to seduce, and to mislead. The devil seduced or charmed the woman to believe him and reject God’s command and His Word. He convinced the woman that they will not die, their eyes will be opened, they will be like God knowing good and evil. The deceiver kept tempting the woman until the woman took the bait and ate the fruit (Genesis 3:4-5). “His strategy is deception. His strategy is to lie about God, to plant thoughts in the mind of Eve that are untrue of God, that God is not kind, that God is not good, that God is harsh, that God is somewhat narrow, that God is holding back from her something that is good. And that you can’t trust God’s Word, even though He said you would die, you won’t die. So God doesn’t even tell the truth.” (John Macarthur’s message on Genesis 3:8-13)

As we look at the effect of the fall, the woman blamed the serpent instead of owning her sin of disobedience to the command of God. Same with Adam, he blamed the woman and didn’t confess his sin and blamed God. This is depravity and corruption of man in plain sight. This is the effect of the fall. This is a disease and a cancer of man. According to Jeremiah the heart of man is deceitful and desperately sick and wicked (Jeremiah 17:9-10). The heart of man is totally depraved, corrupt, sinful, self-centred, and self promoting. Now man needs a Saviour and a Redeemer to be saved and to be right again with God. The sign of an unsaved man is he will not confess his sins before God and repent. Man tends to blame others and blame God for all his miseries and the miseries of the world.

We are like the woman and the man totally depraved after the fall. We want to be like God, we want control, we want to taste everything to satisfy the lust of our flesh and the lust of our eyes (1 John 2:16-17). We are stubborn and rebellious. We don't care about the consequences of our sins. We want immediate pleasures. We are like Adam and Eve we feed our human nature with pleasures even though the Lord will be grieved and sad. Even though our marriages and families will be destroyed, our churches, jobs, and reputations in the community will be ruined. We want freedom, we want to control our lives, and we don't want God to control us. Despite of shame, separation, and death we will still insist on what we want. But the negative effect on us and our children and our children's children is big time. There is suicide and murder. Many will reject, dislike, and abandon God and their faith, their church life, and their ministry. Their life is not anymore found in God but in a world full of sin and carnality. They have no more desire to know God and His plan of salvation. They now choose to live in sin and fall into the trap of the serpent seducing many to join him in hell. Now we know we are fallen creatures and sinful through and through. Corrupt and depraved people for life. How can we deliver ourselves from this corrupt and depraved life? How can we restore the joy of our salvation? How should we confess and repent from our sins when we fall into temptation? The beatitudes of Jesus is the best way to see our brokenness and our need of God and Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. Jesus is the one who paid all of our sins so we can be right with God, at peace with God and friends with God in spite of our corruption and depravity.

3 "Blessed are **the poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those **who mourn**, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the **gentle**, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 "Blessed are those who have been **persecuted** for the sake of **righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people **insult** you and **persecute** you, and **falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me**.

12 "**Rejoice and be glad**, for your **reward in heaven is great**; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. **(Matthew 5:3-12)**