



Sin

Rebellion
Idolatry
Adultery
Lawlessness
Falling Short

SIN

GENESIS 3: 1-24

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.

GENESIS 3: 1-24

“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

GENESIS 3: 1-24

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from? "

The man said, "The woman you put here with me —she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

GENESIS 3: 1-24

Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” So the LORD God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this,
“Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.
And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

GENESIS 3: 1-24

To the woman he said,

“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.

”To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

GENESIS 3: 1-24

It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food
until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for
dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the
mother of all the living.

GENESIS 3: 1-24

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.



SIN AND THE HUMAN CONDITION

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“Certainly nothing offends us more rudely than this doctrine [of original sin]; and yet, without this mystery, the most incomprehensible of all, we are incomprehensible to ourselves.”

-Blaise Pascal

TIES

Raising Children Without the Concept of Sin

My religious fundamentalist childhood was built around the fear of sin. My daughters don't even know the word.



Yvetta Fedorova

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“The only redemption people like me can offer is a manmade social utopia, in which social conditions are such that kindness is a lot more frequent than malice.”

-Richard Rorty

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The question isn't whether you're going to believe, but who; it's not merely about what to believe, but who to entrust yourself to. Do you really want to trust yourself? Do we really think humanity is our best bet? Do we really think we are the answer to our problems, we who've generated all of them?

-James K.A. Smith

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The heart of understanding the difference between “sins” and “Sins” is a deconstruction of modern, Victorian notions of wrongdoing. Let us be quite clear about what Sin is. Let us not trivialize it or domesticate it. Sin is not a matter of a few sins here and a few sins there. What is Sin? Sin is the basic condition of man, the condition of rebellion against God, in his place. Sin is ‘mankind's essential ill-ness,’ it is a condition we are all heir to, it is a demonic Power that enslaves us and binds us and prevents us from being either free or good.

-Fleming Rutledge

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We are responsible before God for Sin, and yet we are unable to liberate ourselves from its grip. We are in a desperate situation, deserving of God's Wrath and marked out for his judgment, each of us individually and all of us collectively. Indeed, it is only by endeavoring to look Sin straight in the face that we are able to understand grace — sentimental evasions are long-range cruelties

-Fleming Rutledge



REBELLION, LIES AND “THE SOVEREIGNTY OF SELF”



A CHARACTER ASSASSINATION OF GOD'S GOODNESS



GENESIS 3: 1

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’? ”

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Even the briefest of glances over the “Mind, Body, Spirit” or “Popular Psychology” sections of a high-street book shop leaves you in no doubt that the pursuit of self-awareness, self-esteem, wholeness and well-being is paramount. To be self-centered is a twenty-first century virtue, for no “Other” can be trusted to being the “good life” craved by the postmodern. One who fails at “project self” (a failure defined by the individual’s own ideas of success based upon cultural and social influences) must gaze into the mirror and confess: “Against you alone have I sinned.”

-Alan Mann



LIES ABOUT AUTONOMY AND FLOURISHING



GENESIS 3: 5

“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”



FREEDOM FROM, FREEDOM TO

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“At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.”

-Justice Anthony Kennedy



LIES ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN



GENESIS 3: 4

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman

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Sin is the suicidal abandonment of joy.

-John Piper

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It is a terrible and terrifying thing to know what you want to be and then realize you're the only one standing in your way—to want with every fiber of your soul to be someone different, to escape the “you” you've made of yourself, only to fall back into the self you hate, over and over and over again. After the thrill of independence and experiments in self-actualization, drinking your so-called “potential for Being” to the dregs, when the exhaustion starts to set in and then eventually morphs into a kind of self-disgust, you can reach a point where you know you want a different life but are enchained to the one you've made.

-James K.A. Smith

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“For wherever the human soul turns itself, other than to you, it is fixed in sorrows, even if it is fixed upon beautiful things.”

-St Augustine



REBELLION AGAINST GOD



GENESIS 3: 6

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

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All sin has first and finally a Godward force. Let us say that a sin is any act – any thought, desire, emotion, word, or deed – or its particular absence, that displeases God and deserves blame. Sin is a culpable and personal affront to a personal God

-Alvin Plantinga



LIES WE BELIEVE TODAY

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The more I make my life, my well-being, my enlightenment, and my success primary, the farther I step from reality. Thus the hell-bound do not travel downward; they travel inward, cocooning themselves behind a mass of vanity, personal rights, religiosity, and defensiveness. Obsession with self is the defining mark of a disintegrating soul.

-Jeff Cook





THE TRUTH ABOUT SIN AND REBELLION



SHAME, NOT TRANSCENDENCE



GENESIS 3: 7

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

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While guilt is a painful feeling of regret and responsibility for one's actions, shame is a painful feeling about oneself as a person.

-Fossum and Mason



HIDING



GENESIS 3: 8

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

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To put it simply, if I know the story I am telling you is a “cover” story, then the most sensible thing to do is presume that the self-story you are narrating does not tell me who you really are either. The chronically shamed live in the shadow of their cover story. The result is that shamed people are afraid to merge their lives, their personal stories, with others because of a fundamental lack of trust in relating.

-Atonement for a Sinless Society



SEPARATION



GENESIS 3: 23-24

So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

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Our life-long nostalgia, our longing to be reunited with something in the universe from which we feel cut off, to be on the inside of some door which we have always seen from the outside, is no mere neurotic fancy, but the truest index of our real situation.

-C.S. Lewis



WE CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES

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“Without you, what am I to myself but a guide to my own self-destruction?”

-St Augustine



DIVINE MERCY IN LIGHT OF OUR REBELLION

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If what human beings need above all else is better health, then may God give us doctors. If what human beings need above all else is more economic justice, then may God give us economists. If what human beings need above all else is better government, then God give us better politicians. If what we need above all else is the forgiveness of our sin, if what we need above all else is reconciliation with the God who made us, then we need a Saviour.

-D.A. Carson



GOD PURSUES

GENESIS 3: 8-9

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"



GOD COVERS

GENESIS 3: 21

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.



GOD PROMISES



GENESIS 3: 15

And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”



ADAM, GARDEN, TREE

JESUS, GARDEN, TREE

“The early church retained the various metaphors for sin from the Old Testament but reframed them around Christ’s life, teaching, death, and resurrection. Sin is seen as a burden, but one that has been borne by Christ. It is a debt, but one that has been paid by Christ. It is an offense, but one that has been removed by Christ. It is an illness, but one that can be healed by Christ. It is defiling, but one can be made pure through Christ....in addition to the traditional Jewish metaphors for sin, we see in the New Testament battle imagery applied to one’s struggle against sin. Paul, for instance, calls the church in Rome ‘conquerors’

-Anthony Thiselton

TITUS 3: 3-7

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

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What we long for is an escape not from creaturehood but from the fraught, harrowing experience of being human in a broken world. What we're hoping for is a place where a sovereign Lord can assure us, "You're safe here."

-James K.A. Smith



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