

Love's Disciplines

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 3:16-19.

B. Sin contributes to the emptiness and restlessness of our race.

C. Pain, subjection, toil and death were given to the race because of the Fall.

II. The Lord does not charge the woman with ultimate responsibility.

III. Consequences.

A. The serpent: humiliation and defeat.

B. The woman.

1. Pain.

a. This is the toil of a heart-breaking kind.

b. The woman is given pain at the threat of any danger or failure in her children.

c. In childbearing, a woman will be saved. (I Timothy 2:12)

1) This is not talking about salvation from sin.

2) It speaks to a woman's fulfillment. (I Timothy 4:16)

3) The meaning of a woman's life is revealed in her children.

2. Subjection.

a. A woman finds her fullest sense of satisfaction in her husband's approval.

b. Consequently, there is tension between desiring and dominating her husband.

c. In loving a woman, a man should not yield his leadership.

d. It is a woman's privilege under God to find her fulfillment in her husband's leadership.

e. This was never intended to be punishment.

C. Adam.

1. The sin that began the Fall was Adam listening to the voice of his wife.

a. There are many times when a man should listen to the voice of his wife, such as the instance where Pilate ignored his wife's voice.

b. The charge was that Adam listened to his wife's voice against God's.

c. This is a breakdown in the headship of man.

d. Two falsehoods in marriage:

1) That a man's job is to please his wife in whatever she wants to do.

2) That man is to be the head and do whatever he pleases.

D. Results of the Fall.

1. Toil.

a. Because man is out of balance, nature is out of balance.

b. This is the reason for the rat race of life.

c. Work is the blessing; toil is the curse.

2. Death. There is futility in having to pass on all that we have.

IV. This is not punishment.

A. It only appears this way when we rebel against it.

B. They are intended to be helps in reminding us of the truth.

C. Death, pain, toil and subjection cancel out our egocentric dreams reminding us of what we really are—dependent, limited men.

D. Paul was given a thorn in the flesh to keep him humble.

E. These things are given to bring man into subjection because God loves him and wants to bring him to Himself.

Application questions:

1. Is the headship of man a result of the Fall or is it related to the cause? Explain.

2. Are the consequences of the Fall a punishment from God in your opinion? Defend your answer.

3. How do the challenges of life help you to remember to be dependent upon God? List some examples.
