

*The Cost of Rebellion*  
*Genesis 3:14-24*

*“As God pronounces judgment on Eve for her part of the transgression in Eden, He says, “Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you” (Genesis 3:16). This verse causes some puzzlement. It would seem that a woman desiring her husband would be a good thing, and not a curse.*

*The Hebrew phrase in question does not include a verb and is literally translated “toward your husband your desire.” Since this judgment is predictive, the future tense verb “will be” is added for clarity: “Your desire will be for your husband.” The most basic and straightforward understanding of this verse is that woman and man would now have ongoing conflict. In contrast to the ideal conditions in the Garden of Eden and the harmony between Adam and Eve, their relationship, from that point on, would include a power struggle. The NLT translation makes it more evident: “You will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.”*

*God is saying that Eve would desire to rule over her husband, but her husband would instead rule over her. Replacing the mutually interdependent relationship the Lord had created was a desire for one spouse to lead the other. Sin had wrought discord. The battle of the sexes had begun. Both man and woman would now seek the upper hand in marriage. The man who was to lovingly care for and nurture his wife would now seek to rule her, and the wife would desire to wrest control from her husband.*

*It is important to note that this judgment only states what will take place. God says that man and woman will live in conflict and their relationship will become problematic. The statement “he shall rule over you” is not a biblical command for men to dominate women... From the beginning, God’s focus has been love and respect between husband and wife. Though sin has tainted the original beauty of this relationship, God commands believers in Christ to pursue this ideal relationship between husband and wife, an ideal perfectly illustrated in Christ’s relationship with the church.” [Eph. 5:22-33] [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org)*

- I. Sin and our conflict with being born with a sin nature has a beginning. It started in the Garden of Eden in a perfect environment with a perfect couple in perfect love with the Lord and with one another. It was paradise without a care in the world. Perfect peace and joy were there between Adam and Eve and with God. Sin was foreign because it didn’t exist, it’s heaviness, oppression, guilt, wickedness, and darkness. It was about to be shattered by an entity, a fallen cherub of high-ranking order, who had been thrown out of heaven because of his rebellion against the Most High (Ezek. 28:12-18). He had become God’s worst enemy, and his goal was to take the perfection of what God created and destroy it, which is what he did.

Gen. 3:14-19

Gen. 2:22-24

Jn. 8:44

Rom. 7:18-25

- II. Anyone who thinks that they can live in ways that please God apart from Christ are sadly mistaken. No one has the power to erase what happened in the garden of Eden, no one. Doing good can't do it, a priest can't do it, praying for the dead can't do it, having good thoughts can't do it, and pretending or believing that all go to heaven or that hell doesn't exist can't do it. What Satan did was powerful and the only one who could reverse what he did is Jesus. God, being a just God, couldn't turn a blind eye toward those who willingly rebelled against Him. He had to pass sentence on the lawbreakers. Every trial has a verdict, and the verdict in God's court of law concerning all involved in their rebellion against Him was guilty. What follows are sentences commensurate to the crime. The first to be judged were the serpent and Satan.

Gen. 3:14-15

Rom. 3:19

Jn. 15:17-19

Rev. 20:10

Rom. 16:20

Jn. 3:16-17

*"The passage in Genesis 3:14-19 contains what has commonly been called the curse... The curse on the animal kingdom, the curse on the serpent, the special curse on the woman, the curse on Adam and his descendants, the curse on the ground itself."*  
Murray

- III. God's judgment on Adam and Eve speaks of the brokenness sin brings to mankind, especially in their relationship with one another. Eve's sentence centers on family and the struggles and conflict that will come about by being both a wife and mother. Adam's sentence centers on the difficulty and frustration of working to survive in a fallen world. Being banned from the Garden of Eden speaks of a broken relationship with God and the tragedy of both spiritual and physical death. What overshadows these terrible but just judgments, is grace. Through mercy and grace God provided a covering to cover the shame of Adam and Eve's nakedness. It signifies in many ways the covering He provides for the shame of our sin through belief in the gospel. He not only covers the shame of our sin, He washes it away through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Gen. 3:17-24

Gen. 4:7

Rom. 8:20-21

Jn. 1:29

**Titus 3:4-5** *But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 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,*