

WE BELIEVE!

WK III - FALL

Fall

We believe that Adam and Eve, our first parents, rebelled against God, lost their original righteousness and were expelled from God's presence. Now every human is born with Adam's sinful nature, so that no part of us is untouched by sin. We are born alienated from God, spiritually dead and physically dying. We subsequently participate in sin by choice and therefore are under the just condemnation of God. Our sin has corrupted God's good creation, bringing discord and disaster to society and nature. We would immediately perish if not for God's common grace, which restrains sin and preserves creation so that God can redeem it.

Key Scriptures for the Week

- Genesis 3
- Romans 1:18-32, 3:10-19, 5:12-19
- Galatians 3:22

Key Points

- **Inside-Out:** Sin begins in the human heart
- **Corruption:** Sin came into a good world in the fall of Adam and Eve
- **Eve:** deceived into direct disobedience
- **Adam:** passively did not intervene and actively chose to participate
- **Sin impacted the entire world (sin's effects):**
 - Relationship between God and man
 - Relationship between people
 - Relationship between people and Creation
 - Relationship between each person and himself
- **Sin impacts the whole person:** Heart, body, mind, soul, will, imagination, emotions, even conscience—there is nothing about us that is untainted
- **All have sinned:** No one is or has been perfect except Christ

WK III - CONT.

Discussion Questions:

- The goodness of Creation sits alongside the corruption of the Fall. When you look out at the world, how much of the good and bad do you see? Where is sin and corruption most obvious to you?
- How has the Fall affected your relationships, personally?
- How have you felt the effects of sin in your own heart?
- Read Romans 6:23. Do you tend to feel more judgment or compassion as you look at the effects of sin? How do you think that compares to God's perspective?
- What are some ways we get this doctrine wrong? Why do you think that is?

We Believe! Outside the Gate

You're in the breakroom at work and the new guy strikes up a conversation with you. He doesn't know you're a Christian and he's talking about a new TV show that promotes the latest ideas in sexual freedom and identity and how great it is that we're still moving in this direction as a country.

- How would you distinguish between what's good and what's bad in what the new guy is saying?
- What are some Bible verses that would inform your thinking?
- What would you say to the new guy in this moment? Is it different from what you would say after you have known him for a while?
- What is your goal for the new guy and what would it take to get there?

"I BELIEVE..."

Summarize in your own words your beliefs about the Fall.