

**The Curse on Woman**  
**Genesis 3:16**  
**November 6, 2016**

## **Introduction**

God had cursed Satan and within the curse, He has given man and woman hope in spite of their disobedience. However, that does not mean that Adam and Eve have escaped His judgment. God is going to curse woman for her role in her disobedience.

Women over the years have struggled under the weight of sin. In most of the world, child birth rate is very low compared to United States. Many mothers did not know if their children would survive in this world. Children often die young. Many mothers' hearts were broken. Not only do they have to deal with children dying, they also had to deal with children growing up, and many mothers' hearts have been broken by their children's terrible decisions.

**Proverbs 17:25** *A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to the one who bore him.*

Not only does she have to deal with children, she also has to deal with her husband. Many husbands in the world do not treat women kindly. Many see women merely as sex objects or as a person who takes care of the house and have no relationship with them. Many women do not have the kindness or respect due them.

To be clear, God is not the author of sin; however, because of the woman's disobedience, God pronounces judgment on woman in that she will experience these types of problems in her life. What is this curse that God has pronounced on woman?

**Genesis 3:16** *To the woman He said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."*

## **I. Childbearing Pains**

- Divine judgment
  - To the woman
  - He pronounces penalty for all women as a result of Eve's sin
  - This is a judgment against the woman in areas where she is supposed to have her highest joy
    - Children
    - Husband
    - Why?
      - She wanted a joy that she thought was denied her
      - It became her greatest misery
- Greatly increased pains
  - Hebrew construction: "Cause your pain to be great"
    - It simply means that childbirth will be hard to bear
  - This does not mean that Eve would have pain before the Fall in childbearing
    - No pain and suffering during the pre-Fall time
    - Childbirth would have been easy
- In childbearing
  - Pain great during birth
  - Pain would be great when having children

- This is a curse on all women when they have children, they shall have pain
- Interesting, this phrase is used twice
  - Second line relates to childbirth
  - First line relates to raising children
    - There is pain when children die at birth
    - There is pain when children die when growing up
    - There is pain when children do not do what the mom wants them to do

**Genesis 26:34-35** *When Esau was forty years old, he married Judith daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and also Basemath daughter of Elon the Hittite. 35 They were a source of grief to Isaac and Rebekah.*

- Children are by nature rebellious and under wrath from conception

**Psalms 51:5** *Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

**Ephesians 2:3** *All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.*

- Women give birth to little sinners and are married to big sinners

## II. Husband Problems

- Your desire will be for your husband
    - Desire?
      - Sexual desire?
        - No, this was known even from before the Fall
        - This is a good desire that God has given man and woman
      - It's a negative desire, not positive (this is God's judgment)
        - This is enmity between husband and wife
        - Desire = seeking control
- Genesis 4:7** *If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.*
- Desire—sin seeks to control you
    - The wife seeks to control her husband
      - She wants to be the leader, to usurp his authority
  - Why is this a judgment from God?
    - Eve resisted her husband's headship
    - She desired the pleasure for herself, not for her husband
    - She gave the fruit to her husband, leading him to sin
  - He shall rule over you
    - As a result of her desire over her husband, he will try to take it from her by force and tyranny
    - This is the conflict in marriage that was not there before the Fall
      - The Fall ruined the loving headship of the husband and the willing helper of the wife

- Before the Fall, they both had a perfect relationship
- Loving and submitting to each other
- Man was leader and woman was helper
- The Fall resulted in the battle of the sexes
- Woman rebels against her husband's authority and headship
- Man seeks to seize control from her
- Man is able to do so because he is physically stronger than her

### III. Curse Relief

- Is there any relief to this curse?
- Only in Christ Jesus
  - In fact it is through a woman that Christ Jesus is born
  - God called her blessed one!
  - It is in Christ Jesus that He reconciles us to God and in the process, He restores us to the ideal relationship between husband and wife
- Curse of childbearing

**1 Timothy 2:13-15** *For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. 15 But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.*

- Original creation
  - Order of creation
    - Adam is head and Eve submits to Adam's headship
    - She helps him (joint ruler with Adam)
    - She is not the head
- The Fall
  - Woman left the protection of her husband and was deceived
  - She acted independently
- Saved through childbearing
  - But
  - The reverse of the curse
  - This is not spiritual salvation—women are still saved only by faith
  - The childbearing becomes a blessing—how?
    - If she lives in faith, love, and holiness
    - If she lives a Spirit-filled life and lives in according to His word,
      - Then she is able to raise the children in the admonition of the Lord
      - The children will be exposed and trained in God's word
      - Some of them will respond joyfully to His word!

**Proverbs 23:24-25** *The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him. 25 May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice!*

- Curse of husband relationships

**Ephesians 5:21-24** *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

- Out of reverence for Christ
  - How do we submit to Christ?
  - Out of grudge?
  - Out of love and joy
  - In the same way, women are to submit to their husbands as they submit to Christ
  - In other words, you are doing it for the Lord
- Woman submit to your husbands
  - This is an intimate submission (like the church submits to Christ)
  - Note submission does not mean obedience
  - This is helping the husband who is the leader
  - In everything!