

Adam

What Can We Learn From His Life?

Learning about our ancestors often helps us to understand ourselves.

Adam and Eve, our first ancestors, were the highest point of God's physical creation, the very reason God created everything else.

Adam and Eve can teach us much about the nature of sin and its consequences.

God gave Adam responsibility for upkeep of the garden He had created.

Genesis 2:15 [NIV] *"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."*

Work is an essential part of life for through work we learn disciplines and can develop a selfless attitude.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 [NIV] *"For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."*

Ephesians 4:28 [NIV] *"He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need."*

Ephesians 2:10 [NIV] *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

God gave Adam a choice and thus the possibility of choosing wrongly, God still gives humanity choice and too often we choose wrongly.

Living with the consequences of our choices teaches us to think and choose more carefully.

This mainly means choosing to obey God.

Genesis 1:26-27 [NIV] *"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*

Note: Only "image" in the first creation of humans.

Without choice we could never be created into the "likeness" of God, that is His character, only then remaining in His image, the shadow of what God desired in His created children.

Human "image" is based on possessions, achievements and physical attractiveness or public acclaim.

God's "likeness" is the reflection of the very character of God as seen in the life of Jesus Christ.

John 14:7-9 [NIV] *"If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

See Christ we see God the Father.

Genesis 1:28 [NIV] “God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. **Rule over** the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

God gives humanity a taste of rulership.

God is the ultimate ruler because He is creator of all things, but to help us create character He gives us stewardship of His creation.

Genesis 3:6 [NIV] “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.**”

Adam was right beside her!

Ephesians 5:22-24 [NIV] “Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. **For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour.** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.”

God must have told Adam and Eve about this relationship between them, this is why scripture always places the blame of the entry of sin into the world on Adam.

Romans 5:12-19 [NIV] “**Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned, for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.**”

The “one man” was Adam who introduced sin into the human race.

1 Timothy 2:13-14 [NIV] “For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.”

Adam knew what was happening but did **not** stop Eve from sinning.

1 Peter 3:7 [NIV] “Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the **weaker partner** and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.”

The Greek word translated “weaker” is “asthēnēs” meaning “strengthless” – less able to resist when assaulted.

This is why most advertising is aimed at women.

This is why every woman needs the assistance of a man in their lives.

The same applies to a man needing the natural softness and compassion of a woman in his life.

God's original creation of humanity in his "image" was **not** complete until Eve was created, for husbands and wives are heirs together, each complements the other.

Marriage was given to Adam and Eve as a very precious gift.

Genesis 2:22-24 [NIV] *"Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman', for she was taken out of man." **For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.**"*

Adam and Eve were created perfect for each other.

The marriage relationship was undoubtedly explained to Adam and Eve. The three major aspects of this relationship are:-

- 1 The man leaves his parents and in a public act, and promises himself to his wife.
- 2 The man and woman are joined together by taking responsibility for each other's welfare and by loving their partner above all others.
- 3 The two become one flesh in the intimacy and commitment of a sexual union that God reserved for marriage only.

Strong marriages include all three of these aspects.

Adam and Eve failed in their marriage and the result was division instead of union, accusations instead of love.

Hatred that ended in the first murder.

Genesis 3:11-13 [NIV] *"And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "**The woman you put here with me, she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.**" Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

Division and accusations.

Genesis 4:3-8 [NIV] *"In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 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." Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, **Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.**"*

Could this lack of love between the brothers have been the result of the bad example of the breakdown of the marriage relationship of their parents, Adam and Eve?

Let us read and learn.