



How Did Adam's Sin Affect You?

"Everyone dies because all of us are related to Adam, the first man." (1 Corinthians 15:2, NLT)

Look carefully in the mirror. Do you resemble a parent or a grandparent or even a great-grandparent? Do you have the same color eyes, hair and skin or face shape? Why do you look the way you do? You look that way because your ancestors passed on physical characteristics from generation to generation. In the same way, as head of the human race, Adam passed on a spiritual characteristic to every human being. Paul told the pagan men of Athens that from **one man** God created all the nations of the earth. (Acts 17:26a, NIV) That makes you Adam's descendant!

The changing of man's nature

What did Adam and Eve do that affected every descendant? The instant Adam willfully chose to disobey God's warning not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, his nature changed. The dictionary defines "nature" as a "force, drive, or tendency that determines or influences a person's behavior or condition." It is the basic quality of a person. Remember, although man is "one," he is a "trinity" in that he possesses a spirit, a soul, and a body. Through the spirit, man is able to communicate and pray to God. When Adam sinned, he died spiritually, so far as his relationship to God was concerned. The love relationship with God was broken, and only God could restore it. His soul, (mind, will, and emotions) began to be affected. (Read Ephesians 2:1-10) Although he lived to be 800 years old, his body began dying. Look at the terrible changes that occurred when Adam sinned.

Before Adam Sinned

Divine spirit, alive to God
Holy nature, perfect and pure
Friend of God
Live forever
Peaceful, confident
Innocent
Honest
Childbirth easy
Perfect environment and world
Ruler of the earth (authority)
No condemnation
No Savior needed

After Adam Sinned

Spiritually, separated from God
Sinful, experienced good and evil
Enemy of God
Dies physically, soul/spirit lives
Fearful, hid from God
Guilty, shame at nakedness
Shifts blame
Pain in childbirth
Ground cursed: thorns, weeds
Satan, now prince of the world
Condemned, under wrath of God
Savior needed and promised

No punishment

Harmony with one another

Adam in kingdom of God

Can you imagine how this tragedy broke God's heart?

Punishment given

Conflict in relationships

Adam in kingdom of darkness

The effect on the human race

Adam passed his sinful nature and his desire to sin to every descendant, including you. The Bible says, *"When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned... For this one man, Adam, brought death to many through his sin... Yes, Adam's one sin brought condemnation upon everyone... Because one person disobeyed God, many people became sinners."* (Romans 5:12, 15, 18, 19, NLT)

The first descendants affected were Adam and Eve's children. Cain, now having the nature of his father (Genesis 5:3), murdered his brother Abel and then lied to God. Sin, like a rock thrown into a lake, has a ripple effect that goes on and on

Does it take any imagination to believe you were born with a desire to sin? No one has to teach a child to disobey. One of the first words a child says is "no"! King David understood that he had a sin nature at birth. In his prayer of confession to God for his sins of adultery and murder, he said, *"For I was born a sinner – yes, from the moment my mother conceived me."* (Psalm 51:5, NIV)

The promise

God immediately reached out to Adam and Eve in love. Although spoken to the serpent, he gave them hope through a wonderful promise. God told the serpent, disguised as Satan (Revelation 20:2), that from the seed (offspring) of the woman would come a person (Jesus Christ) who would defeat Satan (crush his head). (Genesis 3:15) Satan would harass Jesus and instigate his death, but Jesus would resurrect, defeating death and Satan! This is the first prophecy that Jesus is coming! Amazing promise!

The restoration

However, the story did not end with this promise. Although Adam and Eve tried to shift their blame (Adam even blaming God for giving him Eve), they both confessed they had sinned when they said, "I ate." Adam expressed his faith in God's promise by naming his wife "Eve," which meant "the mother of all people everywhere." (Genesis 3:20) Though grieved and hurt that they had chosen to disobey and run their own lives, God forgave them. Looking at the guilty pair covered with their pitiful fig leaves (good works), God knew that only he could restore their relationship.

In an astonishing act of love, he took an innocent animal (perhaps a perfect lamb), and killed it. Imagine the horror Adam and Eve must have felt as they watched the innocent animal gasp its last breath and its blood soak into the ground! (The first death) With this sacrifice, God demonstrated that *"without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins."*

(Hebrews 9:22b, NLT) From the skin of the animal, God made clothing for them and tenderly and lovingly covered them. What a vivid picture of that day when his Son Jesus would die on a cross, pour out his blood, take the penalty and guilt for your sins and cover you with his robe of righteousness (goodness) when you believed. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16, NLT) What awesome love! Although physically you inherited Adam’s nature at birth, Jesus came to give you a new nature and to restore the relationship with the Father when you believed. You are a new creation! A new life has begun! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Attitude check:

- What is your attitude when confronted with a sin – deny and blame someone else or confess and receive God’s forgiveness?

Explore:

- If you have an Old Testament, read the story in Genesis 3. Read, “The Solution, Jesus Christ” (in front of the *Student New Testament*.) Why could Jesus bridge the gap between you and God?
- Write a thanksgiving prayer to God in your journal.

Talking with God:

- Dear heavenly Father, I love you because _____. In Jesus’ name, Amen.