

Theme: Ever since the Fall, sin and culture have disintegrated community and encouraged isolation from God and one another.

I. Intro – Swimming Upstream

- A. Picture of sockeye salmon
- B. Idaho sockeye salmon travel 900 miles, climb 7,000 ft
- C. Salt to freshwater; bodily transformations; current
- D. Man made obstacles; and then there are predators!
- E. Yet they press on - it is in their genes
- F. Building community today is a lot like salmon migration!
- G. What are the forces that disintegrate community?

II. Sin and the Disintegration of Community

- A. Sin causes us to hide in fear from God and one another
Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and **they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.** ⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **they hid from the Lord God** among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and **I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.**”
Genesis 3:7–10
 - 1. For the first time they realize they are naked
 - 2. First time they try to hide - from God & one another
 - 3. Sin causes us to hide from God & one another
 - 4. Sin causes us to be afraid of God & one another

- 5. Relational, transparent humans now isolate & cover
- B. Sin causes us to blame one another & God for our sin
And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” ¹² The man said, “**The woman you put here with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.**” Genesis 3:11–12
 - 1. Adam forced from hiding - and blames Eve!
 - 2. It is the woman - she caused all of this
 - 3. Not going to be a good evening in the house!!!
 - 4. The woman YOU PUT HERE with me - God’s fault
 - 5. This is big in our culture today - God made me this way!
 - 6. It is anybody’s fault but mine!
 - 7. Sin ruins relationships as we blame each other
- C. Sin causes us to try and dominate one another
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.**” Genesis 3:16
 - 1. Fear, hiding, & blaming cause us to try and control
 - 2. This is not about a Christian household - domination
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. Genesis 4:7
 - a. Only other use of “desire” in Genesis - sin controlling

- b. Eve will desire a sinful control - and Adam will crush
- 3. Prophecy fulfilled in our long, sad history - sin does this
- 4. Light years from “bone of my bones” to “rule you”
- 5. Community of family is now full of pain and conflict

III. Culture and the Disintegration of Community

A. Sin definitely works to disintegrate community

- 1. It causes us to hide in fear from God & one another
- 2. It causes us to blame one another & God for our sin
- 3. It causes us to try and dominate one another

B. Culture can also work to disintegrate community

- 1. Culture is the way we pass on beliefs, values
- 2. Culture includes worldview, technology, practices
- 3. All cultures contain good and bad
- 4. Be aware that our culture makes isolation easier
- 5. It makes isolation plausible and achievable
- 6. We will focus on this in a series later this year

IV. Applying the Word

A. How is sin disintegrating community in my life?

- 1. Remember God is the Trinity - The Divine Community
- 2. Remember humans are created in image of Trinity
- 3. Remember humans are created for community

- 4. Sin is rebellion against God’s being and ways
- 5. Thus, sin always works to disintegrate community
- 6. How is sin affecting relationships in my life?
- 7. Is sin causing me to hide from others?
- 8. Is sin causing me to blame others?
- 9. Is sin causing me to try to dominate others?
- 10. Where and with whom is sin disintegrating community in my life?

B. Receiving the Gospel

- 1. Notice that even in this bleak passage there is Gospel hope
 - a. God meets temporal needs - provides garments (v21)
 - b. God promises the Gospel - Jesus will come! (v15)
- 2. Behold the mercy of God - Gospel in midst of rebellion
- 3. Behold the cost - the death of the Son of God
 “She took ... and ate: so simple the act, so hard its undoing. God will taste poverty and death before ‘take and eat’ become verbs of salvation.” - Derek Kidner, Tyndale Commentary

C. Communion - Gospel hope for our sin

The Disintegration of Community

Genesis 3:1-24
 May 19, 2013
 Communion
 Hebrews 13:20-21

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20–21

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” 2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” 4 “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 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. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” 11 And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” 12 The man said, “The woman you put here with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” 14 So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

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.” 17 To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. 22 And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” 23 So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:1–24