

ate from the one tree He told them not to, they would experience “**death.**”

We are not sure this means they would not have experienced a physical death, but this word “death” covers a whole lot of other things. There was the death of their peace in the presence of God. They were ashamed. That is why they covered their nakedness. They were afraid. Adam told God that is why they ran and hid.

There was the death of peace in their relationship with each other. Adam blamed Eve for his choice to disobey. When we have no peace with God we have no peace with others. The first disobedience after they left the Garden of Eden was violence. Cain killed his brother. A man named Lamech, was hurt by someone and vowed to pay him back “77” times more than he had been hurt. We don’t know how long it was, but the day came when God destroyed the people on earth because of their violence. [Gen. 6]

The result of disobedience was all the suffering and heartache we see. Every time we pass a hospital or a jail we see God taking wrong-doing seriously. There was more involved and some kind of fruit on a tree and if that is all we see, we might think God’s punishment was too severe. The punishment did not fit the crime.

Spurgeon rightly says all sin is *rebellion* against God. If God had let Adam and Eve get away with that, if he had let them go unpunished, the day would come when they would have stormed heaven itself and tried to drag Him from His throne.

Romans 3 says, “No one looks for God.” Adrian Rogers says a disobedient person no more looks for God than a mouse looks for a cat. Thankfully, like He comes to us, He came to them. He wants to forgive us and help us be the right kind of people, people who obey Him and help each other. And as He did with Adam and Eve, ***He uses shame*** to draw us to Him.

Shame is innate in human nature. Years ago, the news came out that a man was to be executed for the rape and murder of a teen-age girl. The week of the execution another man walked in, confessed to committing the crime and gave enough details to let them know he was telling the truth. When asked why, he said he learned that the man to be executed was an ex-Marine who had served in Vietnam, and he was a Marine who had served in Vietnam and “I could not let a fellow Marine be put to death for something I did.” As evil as this man was, he could not silence the voice of conscience

Another part of being human is *fear*. If a dog kills its puppy we say that is sad. But if someone beats a puppy to death for the fun of it, we say that is bad and that person needs to be punished and restrained. Romans one says people who “do their own thing”, “**know they deserve to die** (be punished).” Almost every culture has in it the idea of “karma.”

Years ago a child TV actress, now grown up, discussed her depression and drug use. She said her “rock star” father began having improper sexual relations with her when she was thirteen. She said in her early 20’s she walked in and said “Daddy, You and I are going to hell for what we’ve been doing” and walked out. All the glitter, glamor and gold of Hollywood could not silence the voice of conscience telling her there is a payday someday for each one of us.

We do not have to do horrible things. Jesus spoke more about the sin of *not helping* others. In Matthew 25, his longest picture of Judgment Day, those who are punished in eternity were those who did not feed the hungry; visit the lonely; etc.

A man walked out of the restroom of a very fashionable restaurant and a bell started ringing and lights started flashing the words, “***This man did not wash his hands***”. Jesus said, “**What we have done in secret will be shouted from the rooftops.**” (Lk. 12:3)