

## Diesel

One day I needed to go to the airport in the morning. After a few hundred meters the engine cut out. With huge kangaroo jumps the car came to a standstill. I quickly discovered that I had filled the hire-car with diesel. It was normal for me to fill up with diesel because I drove a diesel car myself. The hire-car however did not run on diesel but petrol. It all went very wrong.

The petrol car was, otherwise, in fine condition, but the engine did not run well on diesel fuel.

## What is sin?

Adam and Eve lived in paradise, the Garden of Eden; they were people made in God's image. God was in relationship with them. There was righteousness, peace and happiness. A true paradise on earth. Adam and Eve were allowed to take care of everything. There was however one clear command: "Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for if you do, you shall die."



*Gen 2:15-17*


We know how the story ends. Adam did exactly what God had forbidden, despite knowing the consequences. As soon as he ate of the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, something happened. It is just like with the diesel in the petrol car. The car has not been made to run on diesel, especially the engine. Something goes badly wrong! The engine does not work anymore. The outside is still in good condition but the inside has a problem.

That is what happened to Adam and Eve and to all their descendants after them. Adam and Eve died a spiritual death. Their body and soul remained as in the beginning, but their spirit died, just as God had said it would. Adam and Eve had made a discovery, namely the power of sin. Up until that moment they had only known good, but now they also knew the meaning of evil.

The root of sin is that you actually decide to go against God. You make your own choice about what you think is good and you do not want to live in accordance with the life God has for you. God is no longer your king, it is you who sits on the throne. As we see in in the story of Adam and Eve, Satan is all too happy to help you make the choice.

## First consequence of sin

### What do we miss out on through sin?

 Rom 3:23

The first thing that happened with Adam and Eve is that they saw they were naked. Before then it had never been a problem. They covered themselves because they were ashamed. They hid themselves from God. Due to sin, man started reacting differently. They became afraid of punishment and God's judgment.

 Gen 3:7

Their eyes of understanding are opened and the eyes of their heart are closed.

### What does God do?

 Gen 3:8,9

**Everything** goes wrong with man. God still looks for the people because He desires to have relationship with them. But sadly man has changed. Adam and Eve do not dare to stand before God.

 Matt 9:10-13

In this story we see that Jesus, just like God, looks for the sinful man. Jesus does not go to the righteous but to the sinners in order to save them.

### Why did the people have to leave the Garden of Eden?

 Gen 3:22,23


God did not want the evil in man to remain in contact with eternal life. If man would live forever with the knowledge of evil then evil, and all its consequences, would also remain eternally.

## Contagious disease

When someone is sick with a contagious disease they are put in isolation. In the same way, Adam and Eve were not allowed to stay near the tree of eternal life.

## Further consequences of sin

Because man's spirit dies and God's life is no longer available, man starts to live out of the flesh. God is no longer the **center** of his existence.

 Rom 5:12-15

 **What is the consequence of Adam's sin?**

 **What does this verse say about every person?**

The consequences for mankind are enormous. There is fear of God instead of faith in God. Self-righteousness instead of unconditional love. Peace disappears, murder and death follow quickly. Righteousness disappears, man no longer stands righteous before God and anger and shame appear. Sickness comes to earth. The earth is now cursed and everything will be more difficult. Childbirth shall be very painful for woman. Man will rule over woman. Hate and bitterness make their entrance. Eventually, after the spiritual death, comes separation of God's spirit and man and also the death of the body, separation of the soul and spirit from the body. Finally, eternal death, separation from God forever.

### The consequences in a row:

#### A) Identity which God gave disappears

Through sin the characteristics which God laid in us are damaged.

Loving yourself becomes more difficult because of the sin you have committed or that which others have done to you. Valuing and accepting yourself is also more difficult, either because of sin you have committed or wrong that has been done to you. Believing that there is a purpose to your life is also difficult if you are not able to love yourself or value yourself.

#### B) Authority is distorted

Because man did not remain obedient to God, the one who created and gives authority disappeared from life. What you sow you shall reap. On earth we can see that the authority God made is followed in a decreasing measure. Authority is now used to dominate. Satan also now has authority in the lives of those who give him the space to do so.

#### C) Responsibility not taken on

Because people do not understand authority well and often do not want to take on responsibility, people are often less responsible for the areas assigned to them. Authority is then abused to oppress people. The freedom to choose, which was given by God to man, is not respected by authoritarian leadership. Or there is a complete lack of authority which also leads to everyone doing what he or she thinks is good.


#### D) Relationships in families and community distorted


The focus on "ME" in the **center** of today's culture has **led** to daily relationships everywhere being distorted. There are problems between man and woman, parents and children, boss and employee, government and the people.

#### E) Relationship with God has become more difficult

Because man now knows shame, fear and bad identity it has become difficult to experience God's love, to hear his voice and to understand his will.

## EXERCISE

 Go through the last five points and see if you recognize any of the patterns in your own life. Where has the original picture of what God meant for you been distorted by you your sin or the sin of others?

 Discuss these five points with your mentor and tell them in which areas you require restoration that we have looked at in this study. Pray together that God will bring restoration through his Spirit in the coming weeks and that you will make right choices to help with the restoration.

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