
“Family Transformation: Reflect God’s Love”

GENESIS 3:20

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AT A GLANCE

What began as joy and unity in Genesis 2 quickly unraveled into blame and brokenness in Genesis 3—but God’s promise of a Rescuer (Genesis 3:15) sparked hope and healing. By verse 20, we see a transformed Adam speaking life over his wife, showing how the gospel restores what sin has fractured. At Wildwood, we believe that same gospel still enters homes today, turning conflict into love and reflecting God’s glory through transformed families.

FROM DELIGHT TO DISDAIN: THE TRAGIC SHIFT IN EDEN

There was a time when Adam looked at Eve and said with awe, *“This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh!”* (Genesis 2:23)—the voice of a man seeing the love of his life for the very first time. But just one chapter later, that same man looked at that same woman and, in the coldness of sin and blame, referred to her as *“the woman whom you gave to be with me.”* How quickly the fall turned delight into disdain, unity into alienation. And isn’t that the story we see time after time?

SATAN’S TARGET: THE FAMILY AS GOD’S FRONTLINE

Satan didn’t just deceive Eve in the garden—he targeted the family. Because the family was—and still is—God’s frontline for reflecting His glory on the earth. If Satan can fracture the family, he can muffle the echo of God’s love in the world.

THE GOSPEL’S ENTRANCE: A PROMISE IN THE CURSE

But God didn’t leave the garden in ruin. Right there, in the middle of the curse, came a promise—the first gospel. A rescuer was on His way. And somehow, that hope reached Adam’s heart. Because by Genesis 3:20, we see a man who once distanced himself from his wife now speaking life over her. From bitterness to blessing. From blame to beauty. The gospel had entered the garden—and it transformed the family.

As we continue in our core values series this morning, I want you to see what happens when that same gospel enters *our* homes. How does the gospel turn fractured relationships into reflections of God’s love? At Wildwood, we believe the gospel doesn’t just save people—it transforms families. And that transformation begins when the hope of Christ takes root in the home.

CREATION, MARRIAGE, AND THE MISSION OF FAMILY

The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

– Genesis 3:20

Let’s establish the context of our passage. In Genesis 1 we read the Creation story. In Genesis 2, Moses focused in on the first marriage. Of all things to get extra attention, it seems relevant that it was a wedding; the establishment of the family unit. Tragically, by Genesis 3 it was nearly broken and lost forever.

God gave the couple a simple set of instructions in Genesis 1:28 – be fruitful and multiply and exercise dominion on the earth. And God told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil lest they die, in Genesis 2:16-17.

THE FALL: ADAM'S PASSIVITY AND SATAN'S STRATEGY

In Genesis 3 the enemy of God and man, Satan, entered the Garden and called into question the goodness and wisdom of God. He asked Eve, “Did God really say?” First Eve demonstrated a willingness to alter the Word of God by adding to it, and then in her discontentment, she desired the one thing kept from her.

All while Adam failed to keep the garden and exercise dominion over creation. He should have crushed the head of the serpent at the first whisper of treason. But he didn't and Eve ate and gave some to her husband who was with her. This is what is known as the “fall of man.”

BLAME, DISTANCE, AND THE FRACTURING OF RELATIONSHIP

When God came to the garden he came calling for the man, asking, “where are you?” (3:9) because they hid from Him. It is telling that God first addressed the man, the one He delegated responsibility and authority to, “Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” (3:11)

And right here we see a decisive break in the relationship. Adam blamed both God and Eve. (3:12) From “This is at last bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh...she shall be called woman” (2:23) to “the woman whom you gave to be with me.” (3:12)

Adam went from feeling like he finally received what his heart longed for to blaming God for giving her to him. And this is not unlike what I have seen in so many marriages.

A MODERN PARALLEL: DIVORCE AND DISCONNECTION

I remember going to the courthouse in one couple's divorce proceedings. The room was thick with hate. He couldn't look at her and she couldn't look at him. “The woman” pretty much describes how he felt about her, and she reciprocated.

Only a few years earlier they were on cloud 9, in love. And I thought to myself that day, I need to bring my pre-marital clients to a divorce hearing. It's a sober reality check. And it's tragic reality for so many people.

PARADISE LOST: THE COST OF THE FALL

Genesis 2 was the first wedding day. And God concludes that day with, “*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*” Genesis 2:24-25 *Paradise!*

It wasn't long before Adam settled into passivity and failed to do his one job – keep the garden for the glory of God. And the enemy gained a foothold.

What we see in Genesis 3 is that Adam failed to keep the garden, Eve was tempted, she usurped Adam's leadership and gave him some to eat, and by 3:8 they were naked and ashamed & they hid from God. *Paradise lost.*

THE GOSPEL BREAKS THROUGH THE CURSE

Then the curses come, and we see a disruption of their pre-fall roles and responsibilities – Adam was created to work and keep the garden. “*The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*” Genesis 2:15 He'd still have to work and provide for his family, but now his work would be painful and he'd eat of the ground by the sweat of his brow. (3:17-19)

Eve was created to support Adam as his helpmeet, that together they would multiply God's image by having babies and subdue the earth. After the fall she would still bear children but in great pain

and rather than being a helper suitable for her husband, she'd have a contrarian spirit. The Genesis 3 world is difficult, and dark.

But right there in the middle of the curse, there's a glimmer of light. In speaking to the serpent, God said, *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."* Genesis 3:15

The first gospel. The promise of a rescuer, born of the woman, to crush the enemy's head. Jesus has entered the story. Just the mention of a rescuer changed things for Adam and Eve.

MARRIAGE REDEMPTION: FROM RUIN TO RESTORATION

They were basically on the brink of divorce. We need to see this. We need to see that Satan thought he had won. We look back in hindsight and we know it didn't end there. But it could have! I want you to think about what you know about marriage and how hard it is for a couple to come back from detachment, blame-shifting, and disrespect.

It is a miracle that life didn't end with Adam and Eve. That's a straight up marriage miracle. The gospel entered not only the garden, but it entered their marriage, too. As we continue to read the Genesis account, we read of a fruitful and long-lasting marriage. What nearly ended in the garden was turned around by the gospel.

This is where Genesis 3:20 gets interesting to me. Adam despised his wife in 3:12. The gospel entered the story in 3:15 and in 3:20, Adam's tone changed. From "the woman whom you gave to be with me" to "The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living."

From disparaging and detached to honoring and intimate. From death to life! Death entered the world through Eve's discontentment and Adam's passivity. But because of the promise of a rescuer, now life will come through Eve and Adam calls it out.

EVE'S NEW NAME: A WORD OF LIFE AND HOPE

I love what the Exegetical Commentary has to say about Adam naming his wife Eve. Listen to how Adam honored the woman God gave to him after the gospel entered the equation:

"The name 'Eve' (in Hebrew, Chavvah) is related to the Hebrew word for 'living' or 'life.' Adam's naming of Eve serves the dual purpose of recognizing her role as life-giver...It suggests a hopeful future and sustains the idea of life even amidst sin and death...In the context of ancient Near Eastern culture, naming holds significant importance as it often imparts identity and destiny. Adam's act of naming denotes leadership and stewardship, yet, it also reflects a deep recognition of the woman's intrinsic value and ordained role in God's creation. The text further positions Eve as central to the human narrative, not just as a partner in the fall, but as the forebearer of all humanity."

GOSPEL VISION: A NEW CREATION AND A NEW WEDDING

Genesis 3:20 speaks hope for every broken family! What Satan tried to destroy, God used for His glory! Marriage wasn't supposed to be hard. Parenting wasn't supposed to be hard. Being single wasn't supposed to be hard. There weren't supposed to be widows and orphans and infertility and lost jobs and anger and sexual tension and chaos and anxiety and disorder in the home.

But the fall happened, and the curse followed. Satan thought he had won – that this would be the end of mankind. This would be the end of image-bearers. Death, divorce, & destruction.

But right there in the middle of the story was the hope of a different ending. The hope of a new creation and a new marriage. Jesus walked into the Garden through the Genesis 3:15 promise and He changed the story. He transformed the family. And He is still transforming families!

What's even more profound is we read of a creation story followed by a wedding in Genesis 1 & 2. On the opposite end of the bible in Revelation 21, we see a new creation. And what do you think follows? Another wedding!

Christ and His bride, the Church. What's incredible is that Paul says in Ephesians 5:32 that the institution of marriage was always about Christ and His Church. That something as common as marriage would reflect a love so profound truly is a mystery!

JESUS TRANSFORMS FAMILIES—THEN AND NOW

I want you to see the transformation that took place in the first family when the gospel entered the equation. No one has a Genesis 2 family. We may have a Genesis 2 wedding day, but none of our families stay in Genesis 2 for long.

We're all in the Genesis 3 world and Genesis 3 impacts every aspect of our lives, including our love life. If you're married, the question is whether you're in the Genesis 3:12 & 3:16 stage or the Genesis 3:20 stage. And the difference maker is Jesus in Genesis 3:15.

When the gospel transforms families, the effect is that the love of God is reflected in the home. Husbands love their wives like Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her.

Mothers nurture their children as the Lord who gathers his children beneath his wings in protective and loving care like a hen. And fathers show unconditional love for their children as our Heavenly Father loves His. This is Genesis 3:20 family transformation.

Jesus transforms families. We not only believe this because of what we see in the bible. But we also believe it because we've witnessed it with our own eyes. I am thinking of one couple in particular who has been vocal with their testimony, but I won't mention their names. They came to us in shambles, barely holding on.

Years later the Lord has brought healing and wholeness to their home, to their marriage, to their parenting. They're not perfect, but Jesus has transformed their family. And the truth is, I am looking out at more families with a similar testimony. And I'm looking at families who are still in that struggle.

A CALL TO RESPOND: INVITE JESUS INTO YOUR HOME

None of us can say we're living in a Genesis 2 world because that world no longer exists. Our homes are not Genesis 2 homes. Our families aren't Genesis 2 families. But we have seen and we continue to see families move from Genesis 3:12 to Genesis 3:20 and all because of the Jesus who entered through the promise of Genesis 3:15.

Jesus told a parable that bears mentioning here as we conclude. He said in Matthew 12:43-45:

"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation." Matthew 12:43-45

Transformation does not begin with behavior modification. It doesn't come by you getting yourself morally clean. Jesus was speaking to people whose lives were impeccable, externally. They were the epitome of morally clean. And Jesus warned them that if they remained in that state, they were in grave danger.

Families aren't transformed by external morality. They are transformed by Jesus. They are transformed when a man and a woman invite Jesus into their home, into their marriage, into their lives and they ask Him to bring the change necessary.

The man in the couple I referred to earlier has said publicly before, "I had to humble myself." That was the turning point for them. As long as he was working in his own power, they were broken. But when He asked the Lord to truly take over, everything changed.

Family Transformation is not about external behaviors, it's about a marriage, a home being filled and controlled and empowered by the Spirit of Christ. Wildwood, we believe Jesus still transforms families! He wants to transform yours. Will you invite Him in and ask Him to transform your family, too, so it will reflect God's love?