

Genesis Chapter 3

There is a significant temptation that hits us when we have done something wrong. In attempts to avoid feeling shame from our failure we begin to hide or obscure the truth. Before the fall of man we see that we were incapable of feeling shame. They also didn't know what sin was. Which means they couldn't do anything that left them ashamed. Now that they knew how to do wrong, they became acquainted with shame too. Shame according to the Oxford Dictionary means: a painful feeling of humiliation or distress caused by the consciousness of wrong or foolish behavior. The Bible tells us that the only way to avoid shame, is spiritual discipline and obedience to God. No sin, no shame. Adam however, attempting to hide from shame and punishment tried 2 tactics that we employ still today.

The first thing he did was try to fix things real fast. By fashioning clothes Adam and Eve thought that they could "fix" the symptoms of their sin by He felt shame in his lack of clothing. He had never felt that before. Instead of approaching God or waiting for Him to come so he could ask for help, Adam tried to fix things by making clothes. While it hid the way they looked, the fact that they were now wearing clothes was evidence that something was wrong. He was treating the symptom but not curing the disease. Those useless fig leaves covered his flesh, but it only proved his flesh was now corrupt. A cough drop suppresses the cough, but you are still infected. The fact that you are eating a cough drop is telling enough. Obedience is best, but if you have already failed repentance is the only viable next step. Don't hide and hope that the consequences will pass you by, it's just better to approach God honestly and openly for a solution.

Fig leaves are terrible material for clothing. Which is why when Adam and Eve heard God coming, they hid. Their quick fix wasn't sufficient, and they knew it. They couldn't hide from God and neither can we. Think of all the ways that we try to hide from the consequences of what we do. Lying has always been our first go to. We try to hide the truth behind a different story. They went from wearing fig leaves to hiding in the bushes. Masking their shame in hopes that God won't see it. But God sees the heart. No clothes, be they foliage or wool can hide anything from Him. You can't wear a wide grin, speak christianese and think that God can't see the truth of what you are doing.

The second thing that he did was obfuscate, which means confuse. When God asked Him a question, the proper answer was; "I ate the fruit.". His approach however was to deliver his answer in a way that attempted to control God's response. Adam tried to prove that while he did the wrong thing it wasn't his fault. He blamed Even, then blamed God for his actions. His attempt was to take the humiliation off of himself and make it seem like he did the only reasonable thing available to Him. Sadly we see that a lot now a days. We don't blame ourselves for speeding, we blame the cop for focusing on us and not others. We don't take responsibility when our kids are failing in school, we blame the teacher or circumstances. When your spouse or friend comes up to you and says you've crossed a boundary with them, we find 100 things we don't like about them and make that the issue instead of showing respect to what they said. You can't hide your failure in the mistakes of others. You should never blame God for the decisions that you made.

Conclusion: It is always better to honor God and keep His commandments. Any failing or turning from this plan will lead to humiliation and shame. Nothing you do outside of obedience and repentance can do anything to remove those things once you've got them.