

February 2, 2025
The Sickness Unto Death
Bobby Warrenburg

Read **Genesis 3:19-24** (NIV):

*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.

1. What is the significance of the fact that God made man out of the dust of the ground and then breathed his Spirit into the dust. What does this communicate about us humans?
2. In Genesis 2:17, God had said to Adam and Eve, “*in the day you eat of it you will die.*” What is the meaning of “death” here?
3. Jonathan Pageau said that the death of a thing comes when it is dislocated from its highest aim. What did he mean by that, and what are some examples of this?
4. Why can't a person find true happiness as long as the main thing they're seeking is happiness?
5. A Hebrew scholar named Fletcher wrote: “In Genesis 2-3, Adam and Eve's sin is a departure from a relationship of love and trust in their creator. The serpent offers them fake deification; a tragic imitation of a divine nature that they already have. They are already God's divine image. They already are carrying the divine breath, with divine privileges and wisdom. In apparent ignorance or in rebellion against their true identity they fall prey to the serpent's insinuations that their creator had deceived them. The tree that should have proved their discernment between wrongdoing and faithfulness to God, becomes instead a tree that leads to their experience of both evil and lingering good. They give up the splendor of their creator, inclining to the voice of the creature, and are left bereft of the glory that was theirs by rights. Their action strikes at the heart of their identity. In succumbing to the lie that they need something they already have, they annihilate themselves, and, so, ‘after sin there is nothing for it but death’.”

Talk about what he is getting at here.

6. Compare the original state of Eden with the state that is described here. How has it changed?
7. What is the significance of God making garments for Adam and Eve?
8. Why did God keep Adam and Eve from the tree of life?
9. How does Jesus get us back to the original purpose that God had for us?
10. What did you sense God saying to you through this passage and this message?