

Wednesday Devotional

06/29/2022

Scripture: Genesis 3

The Fall By. Rev. Gerald Dunlap

Genesis 3

The Word says, they became one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked and felt no shame. The purity of the Garden and their lives is beyond what we can understand.

Daniel DeWitt writes, and I paraphrase; "Guilt and Shame were foreign to Eden before the rebellion. But as they wiped the forbidden fruit juice from their lips, these emotions fell over them like a dark shadow. Their silhouettes followed them until their dying days. They would be buried in their cold presence.

Guilt and Shame are conceived in rebellion. They resemble their parents: they have their father's eyes and their mother's smile. We can't deny they are ours.

To live outside of Eden is to be intimately acquainted with them. We know them well, far better than we wish. We would love to part with them. But they won't leave us alone. Though Guilt and Shame are twins, born in the garden, only moments apart, they aren't identical. Guilt is usually tied to an event: "I did something bad." Shame is tied to a person: "I am bad." Guilt is the wound. Shame is the scar. Guilt is isolated to the individual. Shame is contagious.

When you violate God's laws you feel guilt. But that emotion is quickly, nearly simultaneously, joined by shame. Guilt says, "You did something wrong." Shame says, "That's why you need to hide. You're no good. You deserve to live in darkness."

No one can share in your guilt, but many can share in your shame. The child whose father is imprisoned, the wife whose husband is unfaithful, the daughter whose mother is abusive—they all share in the shame. They feel unworthy or even worthless. Shame wraps its arms around their ankles tightly, allowing them to walk but never to run.

In this way, shame is far less logical than guilt. Guilt is connected to events that can be defined in objective journalistic categories: who, what, where, when, and why. But shame is far less concerned with details." (Continued)
