



# Living Well

## Adam's Legacy



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### Her husband, who was with her ....

#### **Where was Adam when Eve was tempted by the serpent?**

*When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.* Genesis 3:6

**The first couple had some time of living the dream** - walking with God in a perfect environment (the garden), with perfect weather, perfect bodies (perfect health), and all the time in the world to enjoy each other (no kids yet!).

But the serpent knew the way into their lives. He tempted them with lies about God and themselves.

"Them" - yes, it was them. Many have the mistaken

belief that the discourse was between Satan and Eve only. The Bible is clear that **Adam was there with her.**

What did Adam say when Satan was tempting Eve with his lies?

#### **NOTHING!**

What was his God-given role? Does he have instructions from God on how to be a husband or how to lead his family?

We don't see either of those instructions at this point in the Bible. But what we do know that God created Adam first. He gave Adam the command to not eat from the tree of good and evil. **He gave Adam His Presence and a personal knowledge of His goodness.**

**Adam was silent.** He could have interceded and told the serpent to go away. He might have countered the lies of the enemy with the truth of God. He had the choice to stop Eve when she



picked the fruit. He could have refused to eat the fruit himself after she ate.

**Adam was silent and passively followed Eve's lead into sin.**

**The legacy of Adam for many men is silence and passivity.** The legacy of sin finds its way into the life of a wife as she often controls the temperature of the marriage and becomes overwhelming emotionally to her husband. **[see the back]**

### The Blame game .....

*Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me— she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.* Genesis 3:11-12

As God walked through the garden and their world, He called out for them. They were not walking with Him.

Before the fall, they were naked and not ashamed. (Genesis 2:25)

After the fall into sin, **Adam and Eve hid from God and covered themselves because of their shame.**

When God addressed the sin, He asked Adam to tell Him what happened. **He went to Adam first.** When God asked Adam about eating the fruit, **Adam does not take responsibility for his disobedience** to God's command. Instead, he

**blames Eve and he blames God for giving Eve to him.** As God talks to Eve, **she blames the serpent.**

**Blaming another person in marriage or in life does not give room for us to take responsibility for wrong choices, consequently, a person is not teachable.**

**Blaming does not make life better or happier; it is a denial of our own sin.**

On the reverse side:

**Legacy in Marriage**

**Passivity and Procrastination**

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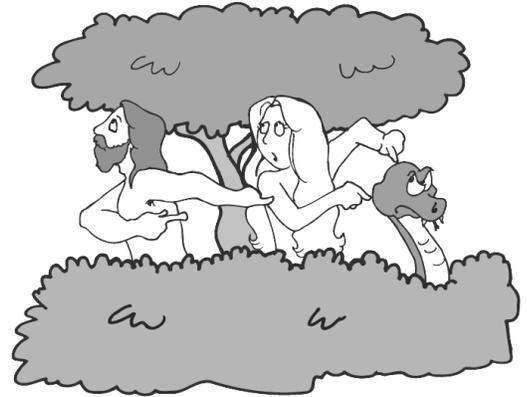
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## The legacy in marriage ....

From the moment sin entered the human experience, **marriage became complicated.** The husband and wife engage in a **dance that has perpetuated through history.**

A wife has an expectation of her husband which includes perfect leadership. When he doesn't lead, she takes the first step and leads. If he takes the first step and she doesn't agree with him, she criticizes and attacks. In either situation, **his next step is out of the**

**dance; he withdraws and retreats - initiating less often.**

**When men become passive at home** - some think that it's the wife's domain, or he thinks it is her job to take care of the kids and home, or he doesn't have the confidence to lead or to even let his thoughts and feeling out to his wife.

*Over the last few years I have seen in my office an increasing number of couples who share a common denominator. The man is active, articulate, energetic and usually*

*successful in his work. But he is inactive, inarticulate, lethargic and withdrawn at home. In his relationship to his wife he is passive. And his passivity drives her crazy...* Pierre Mornell, M.D.

The wife may overreact out of frustration. She interprets his dance as "he doesn't love me" or "he doesn't care" or "he can't lead." **She believes that it won't get done if she doesn't do it.**

Many husbands already feel inadequate; **his wife's response confirms it.**

To have a godly marriage, **a wife may have to stop initiating the next step or leading the dance.**

Some men wrongly think leadership is being a ruler or dictator. **God's idea is a that of a servant.** He also instructs men to **follow Him**, rather than people. If family members (his wife or children) seek to step outside God's will, **the husband is not to follow them into sin but obey God and lead them in truth.**

## Passivity and procrastination .....

When sin entered, the blame game began. Defensiveness went ballistic. The aftershock is dramatic. **A man knows his role is to lead but does not know how because of his separation from God.**

Some men turn this feeling of inadequacy into passivity. **Others take the passivity one step further into procrastination.**

Some personalities tend to be more passive and procrastinate. Perfectionists procrastinate because they don't want to make a mistake or are afraid of failure and/or success.

**I am convinced that our instant gratification culture creates more procrastinators. Many people do not want to do the work it takes to complete a necessary task or to achieve a goal.** "I know that I have to write this report but I would rather watch TV." "I want a great marriage but I don't really want to do the work; I just need a better/different mate." "I know I need to budget my money but I would rather use a credit card to get what I want." "My wife wants me to spend time listening and talking to her; we can do that when the kids are older or I don't work so much."

**Whatever the reasons, this kind of passivity and/or procrastination can be deadly.** Abraham passively agreed to Sarah's plan to have children through her maid. Genesis 16:3 says that he listened to her voice, said nothing, and followed her plan. Then, Abraham did not deal with the tension between Sarah and Hagar. He put off the discipline of Ishmael - resulting in centuries of Arab-Israeli conflict.

**God gives his children his Spirit to be able to move beyond passivity and procrastination into a life that honors and glorifies Him, as we allow Him to work in us and live through us.**