

## **Why Were You Born?**

### **Class 11 Handout: The Fall of Man — The First Sin**

#### **Foundational Truths (The Anchor)**

- **Who made us?** God
- **Why did God make us?**

To know Him, love Him, and serve Him in this life, and be happy with Him forever in the next

- **How?**  
With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength

#### **Course 10 Recap: Man Before the Fall**

Man was created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27), with:

- Intellect to know truth
- Will to choose the good

#### **Original Justice (State of Man Before Sin)**

- Harmony with God (sanctifying grace)
- Harmony within the soul (reason over passions)
- Freedom from suffering and death
- Harmony with creation

These were preternatural gifts (St. Thomas Aquinas) freely given, not owed.

#### **Transition: What Happened?**

If man was created in perfection:

- Why suffering?
- Why sin?
- Why death?

Answer: The Fall of Man (Genesis 3)

## **The Fall Explains Reality**

“In Adam all have sinned.” — St. Augustine

The Fall explains:

- Why we need grace
- Why Christ must come
- Why we cannot save ourselves

## **The Temptation (Genesis 3:1)**

“The serpent was more subtle...”

- The serpent = Satan (John 8:44)
- Motivated by envy of man’s destiny (St. Thomas Aquinas)

Satan attacks God’s image in man

## **The Strategy of Temptation (Still Used Today)**

### **1. Doubt**

“Did God say...?”

- Questions God’s truth
- Weakens faith subtly

### **2. Distortion**

“Lest perhaps you die...”

- Truth is slightly altered
- Certainty becomes confusion

“Error is truth corrupted.” — St. Augustine

### **3. Pride**

“You shall be as gods...”

- Root of all sin
- Desire for **self-rule and autonomy**

“I will not serve” (Non serviam)

## **The Sin (Genesis 3:6)**

- Adam and Eve **disobey God**
- Sin enters the world

“By one man sin entered... and death.” — Romans 5:12

## **What They Gained**

- Not wisdom, but:
  - Moral disorder
  - Loss of grace
  - Experience of evil

## **Immediate Consequences of Sin**

### **1. Shame (Interior Disorder)**

“They knew they were naked.”

- Loss of innocence
- Passions rebel against reason

### **2. Fear (Separation from God)**

“I was afraid... and hid.”

- Man no longer runs to God
- Break in relationship

### **3. Alienation (Broken Relationships)**

- Blame replaces unity
- Division enters human life

“Where sin entered, accusation followed.” — St. John Chrysostom

## **The Judgment of God (Genesis 3:15–19)**

### **The Serpent**

“She shall crush thy head.”

- Protoevangelium (First Gospel)
- Promise of Christ and Mary

## **The Woman**

- Pain in childbirth
- Struggle in relationships

## **The Man**

- Work becomes toil
- Creation resists him

## **Death**

“Dust thou art...”

- Death enters the world
- Result of sin (Romans 6:23)

## **Key Truth: God Did Not Abandon Man**

Even after the Fall:

- God **sustains creation**
- God **promises redemption**

“God judged it better to bring good out of evil...” — St. Augustine

## **Why Does Any Good Still Exist?**

Because:

- God continues to sustain all things
- His goodness still remains

Without God, nothing would exist

## **Final Takeaways**

The Fall explains:

- Our struggle with sin
- The reality of suffering and death
- Our need for Jesus Christ

The answer to the Fall is not Genesis 3...

**It is the Cross.**