Woman: From Curse to Blessing

Genesis 3:16

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May 9, 2010
Shepherd's Community Church

Curse

(Genesis 1:27-28; 2:17-25; Galatians 6:7-8; 1 Timothy 2:13-14; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:23-24; Isaiah 19:4)

Blessing

(Romans 5:20; Genesis 3:15; 1 Timothy 2:13-15; Ephesians 5:17-31)

Living a Life of Love

God knows that, because we are sinners, our first inclination is not to love others, but to love ourselves. Sin turns us into ourselves. Sin causes us to be selfish, self-absorbed, and self-focused. Sin makes us demanding and expectant, rather than serving and giving. So God has to rescue us from us. He has to free us from our bondage to ourselves so that we can live for him and for others.

There is a moment in history that is the final definition of the love to which God has called us. That moment is the cross of Jesus Christ. What does this mean? This means that the love we give to others must shape itself, mold itself, to resemble in some essential way what took place at the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. Hear these words again, "since God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (1 John 4:11).

Let me suggest in very functional, practical terms what it means to be committed to being an instrument of cross-shaped love:

It means not keeping yourself so busy with you and yours that you have no practical time to love others.

It means being committed to knowing people, because you can minister only in very limited ways to those whom you do not know.

It means being willing to live with an open home.

It means admitting you are still learning to love as you have been loved. It means being willing to own up to your own sin and admit your faults.

It means hiding God's Word in your heart and keeping His kingdom always before your eyes.

It means daily remembering Jesus, being in awe of the gift of his love, and living thankfully.

Someone near you right now has lost his way. Someone near you is feeling alone. Someone near you is overwhelmed. Someone near you is being tempted to step off God's pathway. Someone near you is doubting God's presence and love. The God who is love now lives inside of you, enabling you to love as you have been loved. He has chosen you to be one of his ambassadors, incarnating his love in the lives of those he has placed you near. Open your eyes and your heart and offer to others what you have been given. There is no better way to live in this fallen world.

From *Broken-Down House, Living Productively in a World Gone Bad,* Paul Tripp, 170-175