



[Genesis 3:7-10](#)

(7) Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. (8) Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (9) But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" (10) He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

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[Genesis 3:7-10](#) illustrates how no one is ever quite the same after sinning with knowledge. Notice Adam and Eve's [sin](#) occurs after [God](#) had instructed them ([Genesis 2:16-17](#)). Nobody had to tell them they had done wrong—they knew! Now they looked at things differently than they had before; a sense of wrong rushed in on them immediately. Just moments before, all had been friendly and joyful. All of nature seemed obedient to their every wish, and life was good. Suddenly, however, they felt guilt and fear, and it seemed as if every creature in the Garden had witnessed their act and condemned them. Feeling exposed, they sought to hide, illustrating that separation from the purity of God began immediately. The virtue of their innocence began to lose its luster.

[David](#) writes in [Psalm 40:11-13](#):

Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O LORD; let Your lovingkindness and Your [truth](#) continually preserve me. For innumerable evils have surrounded me; my iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of my head; therefore my heart fails me. Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me!

Sin creates a sense of estrangement from God, leaving a tarnishing film on a person's mind. Paul reminds Titus, "To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled

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and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled" ([Titus 1:15](#)). Sin perverts the mind so that one does not look at life in the same way as before. [Jeremiah 6:15](#) describes a sickening end to repeated sin:

"Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time I punish them, they shall be cast down," says the LORD.

Some children are adorable because we [love](#) to see the beauty of their innocence. But what happens on the trip to adulthood? Sin alters the way a person looks at life and [the world](#). With maturity, people become distrustful, sophisticated, competitive, cosmopolitan, cynical, suspicious, sarcastic, prejudiced, self-centered, and uninvolved. It is sin that drives people apart and creates fear.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Elements of Motivation \(Part Seven\): Fear of Judgment](#)

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