**[‘Another Relational Death and the Blame Game Begins’](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/22/another-relational-death-and-the-blame-game-begins/)**

***8They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” 10He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.” 11And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.” 13Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*** Genesis 3:8-13

Death isn’t always physical. In the last post, ***‘The Fall of Man,’***[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1) we learned that the initial ‘death’ was not physical, but relational. When the woman succumbed to the serpent’s deceit and ate of the forbidden fruit and then gave some of that fruit to her husband to eat, a relational wedge came between them and God. Their “eyes were opened and they knew they were naked. They had been naked all along, but their nakedness hadn’t been an issue for them until they ate of the forbidden fruit. Now they sought to cover their nakedness from each other.

Knowing they had sinned against the Lord by eating the forbidden fruit was bad enough, but in this passage we read that they hear the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden. Oh-no, what do they do now? They did what we know is the universal response to guilt. They hid! The fact that the man and the woman hid from God is evidence that their once beautiful relationship with the Lord had suffered a tremendous blow. What a tragedy!

People try to hide from God all the time, but such a thing is futile. Our ever-present, all-knowing God, always knows exactly where we are and what we are doing. That can be of tremendous comfort to us, unless we’re trying to hide from Him. Here is what David, the man described in the Bible as a “man after God’s own heart,” wrote:

***Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
8If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.
9If I take the wings of the dawn,
If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
10Even there Your hand will lead me,
And Your right hand will lay hold of me.*** Psalm 139:7-10

David found it tremendously comforting to him to know that God was everywhere he went. Hopefully, all of God’s children find this to be a comfort as well. God’s nearness is a good thing. He, Emmanuel, is always with us. His promise to His children is that He will never leave us or forsake us.[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn2)

The first man and woman did hide from the Lord, but He went looking for them. In the opening passage, God calls out ***‘Where are you?’*** It’s not that God didn’t know where the man and the woman were. He knew exactly where they were, but in His search for the man and the woman we see the beginning of a pattern. The lost don’t search for God. God searches for the lost. To this very day, our wonderful God does this. This, like everything else God does, is ‘very good.’

In response to God’s question, the man says, ***10… “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.”***

What does God do with what the man told Him?  He asks more questions. ***11And He said, “Who told you that you were naked?*** Before eating of the forbidden fruit, the man and the woman were naked, but we know that they were not ashamed. The question God asks, ***“Who told you that you were naked?”***, leads me to think that though our first parents were naked, their minds were somehow kept from the revelation of all that “nakedness” could mean. Lacking this knowledge wasn’t a bad thing because shame was absent as well.

Before giving the man and the woman a chance to answer the question, God asks a second question – a question which precisely hits the mark. ***Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”*** They had, but oddly, the man doesn’t immediately answer the question. The first thing the man does BEFORE answering God’s question was to blame God for his current predicament! It was God, after all, who gave the woman to the man. Oh how quickly the man forgot the ecstasy he felt the moment he saw the woman God had made for him. Only after he blames God for his present predicament does he answer God’s question.

***12The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.”***

Not to be completely left out of the blame game, the woman answers the question God asks her with her own diversionary tactic of blame, which she then follows with the truth.

***13Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”***

Both the man and the woman ate of the forbidden fruit, but both sought to blame someone else before they admitted their fault. Isn’t it amazing! Already at the onset of sin, taking personal responsibility gets tossed out of the proverbial “window” and blame takes its place. There truly is “nothing new under the sun.”[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn3)

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[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref1) http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/16/the-fall-of-man/

[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref2) Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5; and Hebrews 13:5

[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/11/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref3) Ecclesiastes 1:9