**‘Trouble for the Woman’**

***16To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.”*** Genesis 3:16

The decision made by the woman to listen to the serpent and eat of the forbidden fruit had grave consequences beyond revealing the fact that she was naked.

Sin always has consequences. Some consequences are severe and others not so much. No one gets off “scot-free.” We reap what we sow; it is as simple as that. It is rather amazing how many people are unaware of this fact, yet it is true. God had told the man that the day in which he would eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he would die. There was really no way God could have revealed all of the other trouble which would come with eating the forbidden fruit. Now the woman and the man would hear what some of that trouble would include.

***16To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.”***

The great pain associated with childbirth is a consequence of sin. Apparently some pain would have accompanied the birthing of children, but hear what God states, ***“I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children;”*** Who then is the Author of the great pain of childbirth? God is. He is the One who said, ***“I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth…”*** When God says He will do something, no one else can be given credit for it. The same One who said, ***“Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth,”*** now says that He will greatly multiply the pain of childbirth. Do we have any doubt that this is so? No. We know it is true.

God continues speaking to the woman and says, ***“Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.”*** What exactly does this mean?

Albert Barnes [1834] writes: ***“This is evidently a piece of that retributive justice which meets us constantly in the administration of God. The woman had taken the lead in the transgression. In the fallen state, she is to be subject to the will of her husband. “Desire” does not refer to sexual desire in particular. [see] Genesis 4:7. It means, in general, “turn,” determination of the will. “The determination of thy will shall be yielded to thy husband, and, accordingly, he shall rule over thee.” The second clause, according to the parallel structure of the sentence, is a climax or emphatic reiteration of the first, and therefore serves to determine its meaning. Under fallen man, woman has been more or less a slave. In fact, under the rule of selfishness, the weaker must serve the stronger. Only a spiritual resurrection will restore her to her true place, as the help-meet for man.”***[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1)

Originally, God intended the man and the woman to be co-laborers in the Garden in Eden. Neither one was to rule over the other. The only rule/dominion the man and the woman had been given had been over the earth and the creatures of it. God is **not** changing His mind regarding what He stated at the creation of man. However, He, knowing how sin is going to play out in the world, makes something akin to a statement of just how things will be. The man in his fallen state will not treat the woman as his equal. He will “rule” over her. It will be her ***“desire”*** to lead, but her husband will rule over her. The statement God makes points to the fact that the relationship between men and women wasn’t going to be easy. Historically, we know that the sin-motivated rule of man over woman hasn’t been pretty. Sometimes, it has been downright horrendous.

Thankfully, Barnes adds to his commentary, ***“Only a spiritual resurrection will restore her to her true place, as the help-meet for man.”*** The “spiritual resurrection” of which Barnes speaks is only possible through the restoration Jesus Christ bought and paid for on Calvary’s cross. Now relationships broken at the Fall could begin to be restored to what God originally had in mind. There remains much healing to be done to get back to God’s original intent for men and women. But the Good News of Christ’s finished work of salvation and reconciliation makes it possible for this healing to be accomplished. This is not by our own power, mind you, but with the enablement of God.

Thank God for what He has done through His Son. Thank God for what He is doing to restore all that was lost at the Fall.

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[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref1) <http://biblehub.com/commentaries/barnes/genesis/3.htm>