

## Genesis 3:16-19

**To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you shall bring forth children; yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”**

Two distinct judgments are given to the woman; the first, a greater measure of pain in childbirth. I have heard it said that no pain can compare to what a woman bears when she is delivering her children. This pain is a direct result of sin that one woman committed. Don't ever let anyone tell you that sin doesn't have any consequences; or an even greater lie would be that your sins never affect anyone but yourself. The other judgment passed that day against Eve and women everywhere, is the ongoing battle of women trying to dominate or control their husbands. You can look around in church or out of it, and everywhere that battle is waged. I want to be very clear and say that I don't for one minute believe that men should dominate or rule as a tyrant over their wives and families. But, God definitely designed for the man to be over his wife and family, and God will certainly hold each of us men accountable for the way in which we do just that. Here we learn that the woman will try to rule over the man. How many times have you seen a woman emasculating her husband as she rules over him? The more power and control he gives to her, the more respect that she loses for him. Consider with me, **Proverbs 21:9, “It is better to live in a corner of a roof, than in a house shared with a contentious woman.”** This scripture clearly shows the dysfunction and unhealthy outcome for everyone involved, if a woman rules over her husband.

Let's see what Judgment awaits Adam, as he has now learned of the consequences of the serpent and his wife. Please follow along with me at verse **17**. **Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. 18. “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field; 19. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”** Wow! Talk about severe judgment. The very first thing God addresses is the fact that Adam listened to his wife over listening to the Lord. Friends, the rules haven't changed any today either; God demands our obedience and loyalty to Him first, and foremost. Not only does the Lord curse mankind with the consequences of Adam's choices, but he curses the ground as well. So many people believe that Adam never worked prior to the curse, well that isn't true; but when he worked there was harmony and success in all that he did. Have you ever tried to do a simple fix or repair at your home or on your car, only to discover that the five minute, \$2.00 repair, turned in to an all day fiasco that cost more than you ever dreamed? I see that this is what is meant by toil, when whatever you are doing is only accomplished with difficulty and setbacks. The last thing that I find so amazingly significant is how the Lord puts into perspective Adam's role in the big picture, when God tells Adam that He is only dust; and that one day he will return to dust. How often do we see ourselves as having a greater role, than we really have? There is only one great Supreme Being in this world, and He is God!