



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: **Lexicon of Faith: A Fresh Look at Ancient Words – Sin**

Speaker: **Helen Kim Nowalk – Pastor of Community Life Team**

Scripture: **Genesis 3:6-13, 4:3-9**

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup> He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

<sup>11</sup> And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

<sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

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<sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? <sup>7</sup> If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

<sup>8</sup> Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.”<sup>[a]</sup> While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (NIV)

### **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday, we continue our summer sermon series entitled, Lexicon of Faith. This series explores 8 popular Bible words that many people have misunderstood or misused. This week, Pastor Helen will lead us as we look at our third word - **Sin**. Sin is an indispensable word in our Christian faith that helps us realize the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

### **Sermon Questions:**

1. If you grew up in the church - how was sin defined and how have you grown up thinking about it? How would you define "sin" in your own words today?
2. Explore the idea of sin as being "not the way it's supposed to be." How is this definition helpful?
3. Do you find it difficult or easy to identify sin in your life? Explain.
4. Theologian Cornelius Plantinga Jr. says "For the Christian church to ignore, euphemize, or otherwise mute the lethal reality of sin is to cut the nerve of the gospel." Why is it necessary to understand the "lethal reality" of sin to understand the gospel (good news of Jesus)? How has seeing your own sin made a difference in your own appreciation of Jesus and His good news?
5. How present is the practice of confession in your life? What good fruit have you noticed from such a practice? If it is a challenge, what is a barrier and what might help make such a practice more everyday?