



# GOD'S FELLOWSHIP – FROM CURSE TO HOPE (14)

## START HERE:

When sin first entered the world through humanity's disobedience, everything was affected. It wasn't just people who now faced a new reality and missed out on God's original plan for the world. All of creation was affected. It might be more accurate to say that all of creation was **infected**.

Paul says that creation itself felt the impact of sin's curse even though it did nothing wrong. The consequences of sin always ripple far beyond where it first takes root. That's true not just for creation itself, but also for people.

The good news is that God is more powerful than sin. Someday, all of the brokenness and destruction will be made right. And until then, God enters our world and our lives to begin his good, healing, and redeeming work.

You might recognize these words from this section of verses:

*And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

It's a beautiful and encouraging verse. But it doesn't stand on its own.

It has important context (the words before and after it). Our lives have context, too; things that happened before and things that are still to come. Jesus is part of that context. He's not just with us here and now. He also remakes our past and directs our future.

## READ THIS: Romans 8:19-30

## THINK ABOUT:

What do these verses say about creation?

What do these verses say about prayer? If you've experienced this, write about it here.

Paul tells us that everything works together for our good (v. 28). But he also tells us that we will share in Christ's suffering (v. 17). How can these both be true? (BTW: "good" in the Bible most often means that something is functioning and flourishing within its intended purpose or design.)

What do you learn about each of these things from this passage:

Truth about God:

Truth about Jesus Christ:

Truth about the Spirit:

Truth about God's children:

## AM / PM:

**AM:** Today, focus on the hope we have even in a cursed world.

**PM:** Today, how did you see or experience the hope of Christ?

*Dear Lord, Help me to spread the hope of Christ to those around me; to be a living example of how your Spirit brings hope to a cursed and dark world. Please work in my life and shape me as part of your new creation. Amen.*

### EXTRA THINGS

One of sin's curses was that childbirth would now be painful. That's why Paul writes:

*For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. (Romans 8:22)*

Paul often referred to things in the Hebrew Scriptures (what we call the Old Testament) to show how the whole story of God ties together. Every time Paul does this, it's a clue that we should pay attention and think beyond the words that are right in front of us.

#### Original Creation:

- ◊ everything is very good
- ◊ be fruitful and multiply
- ◊ tend and care for the garden

#### Sin's Curse:

- ◊ serpent is hostile
- ◊ childbirth is painful
- ◊ ground is difficult to tend and care for (see Genesis 3:14-19)

### EXTRA VERSES

Revelation 21:1-1 and Revelation 22:1-5 offer a picture of the new creation.

### EXTRA STUFF

Listen to Rend Collective's "Rescuer" [HERE](#).

