



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: The Fall

Date: October 4, 2026

Scripture Text: Genesis 3:1-7

Notes:

We return to our study of the book of Genesis. We left off in Genesis 2, creation was complete, Adam and Eve were created and placed together by God in the Garden of Eden. He gave them all they needed and instructions for what was allowable and what was not. "The Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.'" [Genesis 2:16-17](#). There was no chaos, conflict, death, or disease. Creation, including the man and woman, were at peace with God. This brings us to Genesis 3, for what is referred to as *the Fall*.

I. Satan's Strategy ([Genesis 3:1-5](#))

Genesis 3 provides the approach Satan takes when tempting us to disobey God. This is accomplished via a 3-fold attack:

- 1. He Attacks the Word of God.** God's word is the only offensive weapon with which to fight ([Eph. 6:17b](#)). It is what Jesus used when He was tempted by Satan before starting His public ministry ([Luke 4:1-13](#)). If Satan can make us question or doubt the word of God, he takes away the power we have to fight off his temptations.
 - He Attacks its Authority ([v. 1](#)). The serpent starts his engagement of the woman by asking "Indeed, has God said..." another way of saying that is "did God really say ...?"
 - How can cultural influences impact an accurate perspective of the authority of God's word?
 - How can our effectiveness as Christians be influenced if we are tempted to question the authority of the Bible?
 - He Attacks its Accuracy ([v. 1](#)). The serpent questions the woman on what exactly God said. Her response in [vv. 2-3](#) describes a view of restrictions rather than freedom. God's instructions were that they were free to eat of any tree except one. Eve saw that as restrictive. She also added "or touch it" to what God said.
 - How did Eve's view of seeing God's word as restrictive instead of freeing affect her openness to disobedience?
 - How can adding to the word of God make us more susceptible to disobedience?
 - How can these two items encourage questions of the accuracy of God's word?



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Notes:

- He Attacks Acceptability (v. 4). Satan tries to minimize sin. By questioning God's word, he can insert doubt concerning truth and once truth is in doubt, then the door is open to create your own 'truth', disregarding God's truth for something false.
 - There is one truth and it is based on God's definition. Truth is always truth for all eternity. Given this, how can we question truth at times ([Ps. 119:142](#))?
 - How can questioning truth open the door for us to minimize sin?
 - How can our minimizing sin affect Christ's church?
- 2. **He Appeals to Man's Pride (v. 5)**. Everything that the serpent says in [v. 5](#) is accurate but is incomplete. He leaves off the consequences of eating the fruit. Our pride creates a skewed filter that elevates us above where we really are. As such we lose perspective of God and the authority of His word.
 - How did the serpent appeal to the woman's pride in [v. 5](#)?
 - Pride puts us into God's place. How has pride gotten you into trouble?
 - Can you be prideful and obedient at the same time?
 - What is the opposite of pride?
 - How can you practice humility to God this week? ([1 Pet. 5:6-7](#))
- 3. **He Appeals to Man's Appetite (v. 6)**. The serpent's words drew the woman's attention to what she would gain by eating the fruit, but not what she would lose.
 - Appealed to curiosity (saw the tree). The woman lingered on the tree instead fleeing the temptation. How can curiosity tempt us to sin?
 - Appealed to emotions (delight to the eyes). What are examples of delightful things that can lead to sin?
 - Appealed to intellect (make one wise). How can seeking wisdom outside the Bible be problematic? What are you likely to find?

II. Man's Sin (Genesis 3:6-7)

The woman succumbs to temptation. She takes the fruit and eats it, then gives some to the man and he eats as well. Shame immediately follows. The peace and harmony enjoyed in the Garden of Eden is now gone. All of creation is affected by their sin. All of us are affected by their sin. This event is marked by the term 'the fall' because mankind fell from their relationship with God. Sin became the wedge between man and God. The only remedy would be a Savior who would come and pay the penalty for sin on our behalf.

- Describe in your own words the impact of sin on God's creation.
- Eve's actions drew Adam into her sin. How can our sin bring others down?
- How does sin affect our relationship with God?
- How did the redemptive work of Christ reconcile that relationship?