

The Fall Part 1

One Rule

Genesis 2:16-17, 3:1-6, Romans 5:12-15, 19

Memory Verses: Romans 5:19

MANUSCRIPT

Series Intro: In Genesis chapters 1 & 2 we see all that God had created. The heavens and the earth, the planets and the stars, the seas and the mountains, the birds and the fish, the animals and the plants. God is a creative designer, powerful and benevolent. Then God made mankind from the dust of the ground. In his image he made male and female, Adam and Eve. He gave Eve to Adam to be his helpmate and he told them to be fruitful and multiply and thus he made the family to be the cornerstone of all of society. And what does the Bible say about this creation? It was good. And what does the Bible say about the creation of humanity? It was good.

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

These words are very important to us because it shows us that in God's original design in Genesis chapters 1 & 2 it was good. Not just good as in, its all good man, meaning fine, but good in the sense that it was perfection. Good as in, there was nothing that was bad. There was no sin, no shame, no deception, no guilt, no death, no evil whatsoever. It truly was paradise. The utopia that mankind has spent thousands of years trying to manufacture was here on earth in the garden of Eden. And why was it good? Because God wanted his goodness for us to lead us to worship him. This utopia, this paradise, was all for us, to see the goodness and splendor of God, to see him as worthy of praise and worship, so that we would give him the glory he is due forever. And for an undisclosed amount of time we did. We, being represented by Adam & Eve, for a time, enjoyed this paradise and worshipped God in it. But eventually, left to our own nature, our own free will, we got bored with perfection and tried to make it better.

And this is the essential weakness of all mankind. We are not satisfied with perfection. We are not satisfied with, "and it was good." We get bored with health, and wealth, and peace, and prosperity. So we find problems where there aren't any. We fight for revolution where there is nothing that needs to be resolved. We are the masters of messing up a good thing are we not? For example, if we are given everything that could be given to mankind, and things are essentially as good as they could ever be, and everything is up for grabs, total freedom, nothing is off limits. And we are given just one little rule. We are told that this one little thing is off limits and if we mess with it we will lose paradise. What do we

do? What must we do? Well we must have it, right? We must abandon everything good to have the one thing that they said we can't have. Because if there is one defining rule for humanity in general it is that we don't like rules. We see any rule as an assault on our free will. We see any boundary as an injustice. How dare you tell me I can't. How dare you say that I must refrain. Who made you the boss? It's unfair. We are rebels. We must rebel.

You see, we can get upset with Adam and Even and play the blame game. How did you guys mess this up? You had one rule? You had one job? And you just had to go and curse us all. But get this... this is important. **If instead of Adam and Eve, it were you and me, we would've done the same thing.** We have the same propensity for rebellion that they did. This is why the Bible says, we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God! Let's begin this morning by looking at **Genesis 3:1-6** together.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see this morning is that... **We would've broken God's one rule, because we too would've doubted God's Word & Goodness.** Look again at **3:1**. Enter the serpent. Is it a snake? Is this some type of fable with talking animals? What is going on here? Without going into too much detail due to time, no, this is not a snake... this is actually Satan who had rebelled against God and was banished to Earth. He was the most beautiful and most wise of all of God's creations in heaven until he tried to lead a mutiny against God and become the most high. Then God sent him and his demons to live upon the Earth. He was here before Adam and Eve. And as a unique creature of heaven, being able to traverse between realms, he is able to change forms. What did he look like as he spoke with Eve? Who knows... My head cannon would be a dragon... but does it matter? All that matters is that he had an agenda. If he couldn't destroy God's kingdom in heaven, he was going to destroy God's kingdom on earth.

So he approaches Eve and sets his plan into place. As the deceiver and the father of lies his plan is to throw doubt upon God's word and God's goodness. And this is still the plan today, by the way. The talking head atheists, **the leaders of the cultural mutiny against God, always attack two things. God's word and God's goodness.** If we can cast doubt on the canon of scripture, the infallibility and the inerrancy of the Bible, and lead people to believe its all fiction, we can destroy God. If we can cast doubt on his benevolence, his goodness, and lead people to believe he is an evil tyrant, we can destroy God. And so satan attacks God's word and his goodness with one simple question. In **verse 1**, "didn't God say you can't eat from any of the trees." Did you get that? The very first question in the Bible and the very first lie in the Bible all in one. Why? Cause that's not what God said. Look back at chapter **2:16-17**. God said almost the

opposite. He said, you may eat of every tree, all the trees, trees as far as your eye can see. Eat from all of them. Eat all the fruit your belly can stomach. Gorge yourself on the fruit of trees. Oh, and by the way. Since I've given you millions of trees to eat the fruit from... could you just leave this one tree alone. Its a sacred tree and you can't eat from it. This is my tree. All the other trees are yours... this one is mine. But it's just one tree... all the other trees are yours so it shouldn't be a problem right.

I want you to get this. God was so generous and so good that he let them have 99.99999% of everything and only reserved 1 tree for himself. Thats not evil... thats good! Thats great! Thats someone worth worshipping! But Satan flipped the whole thing on its head by drawing attention to the one tree. You think God is good? Then why is he holding out on you? You think all of this is so wonderful and perfect... then why did God tell you NO to that tree. That one tree... its better than all the others and so its basically like giving you nothing! It's not fair that he's keeping something so good from you! God's a liar, God is evil!

Don't you see this in today's society. God said that lifestyle is off limits... thats not fair. God said that sexual act is off limits... that's not fair, let me be who I am. Be who you are? You are a sinner! Your propensity is for evil and rebellion! The greatest lie the devil ever told was that it is a good thing to be who you are! Nope we need to be changed!

But Satan's lie worked. This temptation, this lie, crept into Eve's head and she began to doubt all that she knew to be true. Her faith, which had not been faith up until this point, because it had been reality, was shaken to pieces in minutes. And are we so arrogant as to think we would've been different? No, because we are Eve. We have the same propensity to doubt God's goodness and God's word... and we do it everyday don't we? Our faith is very fragile indeed. **If instead of Adam and Eve, it were you and me, we would've done the same thing!**

The second thing we need to focus on this morning is that... **We would've broken God's one rule, because we too would've allowed ourselves to be deceived.** Look again at 3:2-6. Eve is on top of her game right? She knows what God said. No, you silly serpent, we CAN eat of all the trees, we just can't eat of that one tree because if we do we will die! Thats a good reason to not eat it. Isn't it? Like what could I say or do to convince you to eat something that was poisoned? That should have been the end of the conversation. But it wasn't and it never is.

Satan responds with... vs.4, "God's lying again! You won't die... instead your eyes will be opened and you will be like God!" This is really interesting. Isn't this why Satan was banished from heaven? Because he wanted to become like God? And he would know better than anyone on earth that this isn't possible. But he's still selling it, you can be like God. If you are enlightened enough beyond silly religious superstitions

you can be like God. If you grasp on to science and all of our theories of evolution you can be like God. Why do we need a God when we are gods? And thats all it took. All of God's goodness, all of his gifts, all of his perfection, all of his promises, all of his providence.... who cares... cause this thing you told me I couldn't have... its the only thing that matters to me. You get it right? **Humans will always want, more than anything, the one thing they are told they can't have.** Why do people steal? Because they are told they can't have it and they want it. Why do people do drugs before they are addicted? Because they are told they can't have it and they want it. Why did I start smoking at age 12? Because I was told I couldn't have it and I wanted it. Why do we have sex before marriage? Because we are told we can't have it and we want it. Why do we commit adultery? Because we are told we can't have it and we want it. Why has those who identify as LGBT grown by 600% in the last decade? Because they were told they couldn't have it and they wanted it! If God says no... we say, we'll see about that.

And so Eve took the fruit and ate it and gave it to Adam and he ate it. She desired it, she saw that it was good, that it was wise, that it would give her fulfillment. She was deceived. So, let's talk about deception and sin a little bit here! Was Eve deceived by Satan? Was Adam deceived by Eve? **First, Adam and Eve were given only one rule! It's not hard to forget the rules when there is only one of them. Secondly, Adam and Eve had experienced the goodness of God in a way that none of us have ever experienced. They lived in the Garden with God in his purest form. The form that God told Moses he could only see from a distance and it still turned his face white! That form lived with with Adam and Eve every day and communed with them! They were more fully in the presence of God than anyone who has ever walked the face of the earth save Jesus Christ!**

But she forgets all of that and in a few minutes this Serpent totally breaks her. She eats and then simply hands the fruit to Adam and he is like, sure why not? I don't buy it! Not in all cases, but I would say in most, you have got to want to be deceived in order to be deceived. I believe that **Satan's lies weren't the reason they rebelled against God! Satan's lies were the excuse to rebel against God.** It boils down to this. Satan was the messenger of temptation, and yes, temptation will come from many people and many places, but the temptation to sin is not a sin! We will all be tested. We are tested every day. But you can't blame the tempter if you know the rules! When you know the rules and you willingly break them, you are responsible for your own disobedience! **Adam and Eve's sin wasn't eating of the forbidden tree, Adam and Eve's sin was willful disobedience to God!** And guess what? We are no different. The same propensity in Eve to desire the one thing that she was denied lives in all of us. **If instead of Adam and Eve, it were you and me, we would've done the same thing!**

Application

I hope you understand the point of this message is not to discourage you into thinking that sin is inescapable. The point of this message is for you to understand that it's not Adam and Eve's fault any more than it is all of our faults. We can't blame them for our sin. Their sin is our sin. Our sin is their sin. We are humans and the one thing we will always get right is sin! If given the choice to worship God or rebel against God we will always rebel. And that is why we need a savior. We need someone who can resist sin, resist temptation, and who can keep God's one rule of obedience. We need them to stand in our place, on our behalf, and proclaim to God... it can be done, it has been done!

Conclusion

This whole message was to point you to Christ our savior. Look at one more passage with me. This one is very important. **Romans 5:12-15**. Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, but all sinned. Their sin is our sin. Our sin is their sin. Disobedience to God. And because of our sin, death reigned. But look at **verse 15**. For if many died through one man's sin, many will abound by the free grace of one man... Jesus Christ! Now look at **Romans 5:19**. One man's disobedience to God we were all made sinners. But through one man's obedience, Christ, we can all be made righteous!

You could never not eat of the fruit of the tree. If every single person on this planet had been the first human in the garden, they would've done the same thing. If given a million chances, eventually they would've done the same thing. We would've done the same thing! There is only one who would not! Jesus! And he proved it through his life here on earth. And he died in our place. And he lives to intercede on our behalf. And now when God looks at us he doesn't see our disobedience any more. He doesn't see the sin in the garden. He only sees the sacrifice on the cross. You can be saved today from sin... only by placing your life in Christ and being covered by his blood!