

Sermon Outline

The Fall Into Sin (Part 2)

Genesis 3:1-7

- I. God created a garden.
 - A. The garden was good—perfect.
 - 1. The garden was for man to enjoy—to work, enjoy and to live off of.
 - 2. *You are free to eat from any tree in the garden...but one.*
 - B. **Principle—True freedom only works within boundaries.**
 - C. Through all mankind is the freedom to NOT trust God.
- II. The Garden—Myth or history?
 - A. View 1—Genesis 1-11 is myth: morality tales formed from extra-biblical sources.
 - B. View 2—Genesis is historical: Actual people and events.
 - C. View 3—Genesis is “proto- historical”: real events and people, but added fiction.
 - D. The New Testament—supports the historical view.
 - 1. The genealogies in Luke 3:38 and Jude 14 (several more references).
- III. The New Testament is essential in explaining Genesis 3.
 - A. The ideas of “the fall of man” and the serpent being Satan is not found in Genesis. They are found in the New Testament.
 - 1. The fall of man—Romans 5:12
 - 2. The serpent (discussed below).
- IV. The anatomy of shame.
 - A. The world goes from being all good to being good yet corrupted.
 - 1. (2:25)—No shame, to (3:7)—shame.
 - B. **Two parts to shame: knowledge and motivation.**
 - 1. Knowledge—the knowledge that someone is watching.
 - 2. Motivation—wanting to hide.
- V. The serpent.
 - A. Serpent—a snake or a dragon (or both): Revelation 12:7-9.

1. The serpent is a real animal inhabited by Satan.
2. The serpent was “crafty”— *clever at achieving one’s aim by indirect or deceitful methods.*
3. For the Christian, Satan can only tempt, he cannot force actions.

VI. Satan: As shown through the serpent.

- A. He twists the truth (3:1).
- B. He uses trivia (3:1).
- C. He casts doubt on God’s character.
 1. **All sin comes from distrusting God’s character.**
- D. Satan redefines freedom: perfect, complete autonomy.
- E. Satan ultimately completely contradicts God (3:4-5).
- F. Satan plays on our pride (3:5).
 1. *You will be like God!*

VII. Two possibilities in temptation.

- A. Listen to God and resist (2 Timothy 2:22).
- B. Fall to the temptation and violate God’s commands.
 1. Eve takes the forbidden fruit and they both eat it (3:6).

VIII. Two very insightful passages:

- A. James 1:14-15
 1. **Mind:** Thoughts—“being carried away” (1:14)
 2. **Emotions**— “Enticed by own lusts” (1:14).
 3. **Self-fulfillment**—“desired to make her wise” (1:15).
- B. 1 John 2:16
 1. She saw that the tree was good for food... *lust of the flesh.*
 2. It was a delight to her eyes...*lust of the eyes.*
 3. Desirable to make one wise...*The pride of life.*

IX. Consequences (3:7)

- A. They had their eyes opened to evil, they had great shame, and the world has never been the same!

Sermon Notes

The Fall Into Sin (Part 2)

Genesis 3:1-7

We're back in the garden...

Genesis 1 and 2 is a perfect world...Genesis 1 is an aerial view of God's perfect creation and God Himself deemed it all as good... very good...Genesis 2 zooms in and looks at some of the crucial details of what was created in Genesis 1...primarily the creation of man and woman culminating in God's design for marriage.

God created a garden...God planted the garden Himself (1:8)... can you imagine that garden!!...a perfect garden... perfect, plentiful produce...everything imaginable plus...

A perfect river flowing from the garden... gold and precious stones... and man and woman set in the midst of all of it... to enjoy... to find pleasure in working the land...work was pleasurable... it wasn't labor... I'm pretty sure they never sweat while working... there were no weeds... no thistles... the ground was perfect!....

It was the very best of gardening... One of the great characteristics of this world created by God is the amazing freedom God has given to man...*it's all yours...be fruitful and multiply... take dominion over all the earth... IT'S YOURS TO ENJOY...*

Genesis 1:29-30

Then God said, "Behold, I have given to you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has the fruit of the tree yielding seed; it shall be food for you;

30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to everything that creeps on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so.

You are free to enjoy all of it...oh... there are two trees among the thousands I don't want you to eat from ...I'm going to stick them right here in the center of the garden so you won't mistake them for the other trees... the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Here's the first life principle for us to grab onto... **True freedom only works within boundaries...** If boundaries are removed... then true freedom ceases to exist... you will step on someone else's freedom taking away their liberty!...

[We have a fence around our property that defines the boundaries of our property and the neighboring farmer's property... I have complete freedom to enjoy my property on my side of the fence... if I venture

over the fence I'm stepping onto the farmer's freedom... LENTIL BEACH?] **Selfish..freedom at the expense of the farmer... the farmer's livelihood...Shame**

Overstepping our bounds does not lead to freedom... but merely creates new limitations that will hinder our freedom down the road. To reject an outside standard is not to free ourselves, but to create a new set of chains.

G. K. Chesterton commenting on Shakespear's MacBeth wrote:

"The first philosophical significance of [Macbeth] is this: that our life is one thing and that our lawless acts limit us; every time we break a law we make a limitation. In some strange way hidden in the deeps of human psychology, if we build our place on some unknown wrong, it turns very slowly into our prison."

In that reality is not represented by autonomous freedom... freedom without boundaries... our very act of trying to live in that will add stress...anxiety... depression...making that erroneous idea our prison.

God's boundaries are for our good...so... Genesis 2:16-17

And Yahweh God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may surely eat; FREEDOM!... 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat from it...BOUNDARIES... for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." The result of crossing the boundaries!

There is another freedom we have that is given to us by God... it is far more important than fence boundaries... **God places Himself at risk in human freedom**... Part of the freedom in the garden.... And through all mankind is the freedom to NOT trust God....

And in this garden... the freedom to not trust God becomes the doorway of the very loss of freedom itself...

Chapters 1 and 2 is a world without disappointment... disease...murder...strife...jealousy, frustration, lying, cheating, deception... sickness and death.... We turn the page to chapter 3 and everything changes...

Everything is in contrast... and that contrast has affected all of creation since... since chapter 3, we now have the wonder of human life **and** its tragedy.... The richness of life **and** its death... the good, the very good... now the bad.... The very bad.

Let's read the passage: **Read Genesis 3:1-7**

This may sound like a myth or a legend of some sort... and there has been long debate within both the Jewish and Christian world as to whether or not this is fiction or history... it matters!... in fact... the argument doesn't usually stop at chapter 3 but extends all the way through chapter 11 of Genesis....

Which includes Noah and the flood...the tower of Babel... and a whole lot of genealogies...**View 1: The first eleven chapters are either myths**... morality tales that have been composed from ancient extra-biblical sources.

Or **View 2: they are factual historical events**...Adam and Eve were actual historical people... so was Noah... and everyone else in those eleven chapters. Or... **View 3: they are a combination of both... (proto-historical)**... (photograph=historical; a painting= proto-historical; cartoon= myth).

we won't get into all of that.

I do want to say that the New Testament treats Genesis 3 as history... Several passages in the New Testament refer to these events in the garden as actual events... In Luke 3:38 Adam is in the genealogy of Jesus as is others in the first 11 chapters.... Jude 14 references the genealogy of Adam...

In fact... the New Testament is essential in understanding Genesis 3... we assume that chapter 3 is the fall of man... when sin entered into the world...contaminating all of creation... and when all mankind drops out of fellowship with God....but nowhere in chapter 3 or Genesis for that matter does it say that....

We assume the serpent is Satan... but nowhere does Genesis say that the serpent is Satan... or a snake for that matter...(we'll get into this)

Many if not most Jewish rabbis believe that chapter 3 is not the fall of man... that the serpent is not Satan... and Adam and Eve represent what happens to every person when they disobey God...they are mythological representations of all men and women.

It is in the New Testament that we get help in all this... especially in Paul's writing in Romans 5:12 **Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned**— that's the doctrine of the fall of man.

The evidence is there in the Old Testament... after chapter 3... everything that follows is a vastly different world than the world in Genesis 1 and 2.... Eight verses into chapter 4 and Cain murders his brother Abel... the world goes downhill from there..... all the way to the end of Malachi....to the N.T. which is the "Good News"...reconciled to God through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Verse 1.... **Now**....

Now tells us that chapter 3 is a continuation of what came before it... what came before it was 2:25... that... **the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed**.... Which is going to change in these first seven verses...

3:7 **And the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings**.... Which is another way on saying... now they are ashamed.... What happened?

Have you ever thought of the anatomy of shame?... shame requires **knowledge and motivation**... knowledge that someone is watching and the motivation to hide...or more specific... shame requires the **knowledge** of good and evil.... Choosing evil... which becomes the motivation to hide...

See if those are not the ingredients for the last time you felt great shame... you know it was wrong... you chose to do it anyway... realizing God was watching you.... You want to hide...

You have guests over for dinner... in the middle of dinner the one year old runs into the dining room stark naked.... Stops and smiles at everyone... everyone says *isn't she cute!*

That little one year old doesn't even think about it... she knew she was naked... but she doesn't even think about it... that little child has no idea what people think of her... other than she's cute... now... if grandpa runs into the dining room naked.... Sorry to put that image into your heads!....

There's innocence in the one year old that DOESN'T KNOW and is not concerned about how she is perceived...there is no shame....shame is having the knowledge of good and evil, choosing evil, knowing that *someone* God is watching and wanting to hide.... That's what happened here in the garden.....
Now... the serpent...what about the serpent?

The Serpent

We think of the serpent being a snake...the Hebrew word translated **serpent** certainly could be a snake... some places it is translated as a dragon...again...the New Testament sheds light on this... in Revelation 12...looking back when the war of the angels.... When Satan.. the most glorious angel was cast out of heaven...(because evil of pride had taken him over)...

Revelation 12:7-9

And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Satan... **the serpent of old... the great dragon**....this serpent in the garden was a real animal... God made him.. he was craftier than any beast of the field...apparently at this point in the story he stood upright... later he would be condemned to slither **on his belly** (3:14)...

He's a real animal that Satan had taken up residency.... This serpent is described here as being the **most crafty** of all the animal kingdom... crafty is not malevolent evil...nowhere in this dialogue is the serpent forcing evil or putting Adam and Eve in bondage... he never handcuffs Eve and forces her to go against God.

He's simply *crafty*....by definition— Cunning; artful; skillful in devising and pursuing a scheme... one who is crafty could be doing good or evil... here it is the idea of being a deceiver or **tempter**... the main job of the devil...

The apostle Paul in the New Testament warns of the devil as being the tempter....

1 Thessalonians 3:5

For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to know about your faith, lest somehow the tempter has tempted you, and our labor be in vain.

The serpent does not appear as the voice of the devil to Eve... **the voice of temptation does not come as the voice of evil**...he's too crafty for that!... don't forget how novel all this is... how can we get upset at

Eve... she lives in a perfect world... evil ever existed... she never had experienced anyone with evil motives....she doesn't know what evil motives are!

Craftiness in the evil sense had never existed...she had never experienced a "bad" outcome of anything!... there's never been a deception... I even wonder what the first man and woman thought when God told them to **not eat from the tree for they would surely die**...what is "die"... what is death?

Crafty—*clever at achieving one's aim by indirect or deceitful methods*... what is deceitful?...listen to the serpent:

(1) **and he said to the woman, indeed has God said, "you shall not eat from any tree of the garden?..."**it's just a question.... *Isn't this what God said?*... there's nothing evil in his question... He doesn't dis God... it seems like an innocent question... but there is a highly intentional design in this question....

What we are going to see is how the great deceiver, tempter works... how he worked in the garden and how he continues to work on us today... Satan has a strategy... **the strategy is to get us to turn on God through lies and deception.**

Know this...Satan can only tempt... he cannot force action!... the movies are wrong!... *if you are a Christian*... you have the Holy Spirit in you...you can resist the devil... Your faith will hold you fast against the schemes of the devil.

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

James 4:7

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

The serpent is NOT the cause of human failure...whatever else this story is... it is not a blamer of our sin and evil deeds on a second party... we can't pin our sin on some external cause...

So here in this simple question.... Is the first lie in the history of the world... *didn't God say you shall not eat of any tree of the garden?*...look at his tactics...

1. He twists the truth—God didn't say this of course... but by twisting the truth he sows mistrust in God...It questions God's character... It's a negative statement that gives God a tinge of meanness...*You shall not eat from ANY tree... If God really cared about you... He wouldn't deny you things...*

Interesting...but Satan... as he does... reverses what God actually said to begin the process of deception... she KNOWS God didn't say that... but now it's in her head...(politicians today know this tactic!) she responds (2) **And the woman said to the serpent... "from the fruit of the trees we can eat"**... we can eat from all the trees...(3) **but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden...you shall not eat from it....**

2. He uses trivia—Temptation begins with trivia...something insignificant... Eve didn't know this was a tactic of Satan... just a simple "misunderstanding of what God said"... just a little thing!... even after Satan is corrected by Eve... *No God didn't say that... He said just from that one tree... that one fruit...* the serpent turns THAT into trivia!

He wants her to look at that one tree... that one fruit as no big deal... *What's one piece of forbidden fruit?... surely God won't miss one little fruit!*...he doesn't explicitly say that... but that's what he's trying to do and does with this one mis-statement... ***didn't God say YOU SHALL NOT EAT....*** Sounds harsh!...so negative!...so limiting... so restrictive....

What did God actually say?... **YOU SHALL EAT!...eat all you want!...the whole world is yours!....it's all yours except for just one tree!**

By the way...Another seemingly small thing...notice from chapter 2 verse 4... it says **In the day that the Lord God made earth and heaven...** then in 5 **for Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth...**

7. Then Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground... 8. And out of the ground Lord God caused to grow every tree...15 Then Lord God took the man...16 And Lord God commanded the man...verses 18...19...21...22...3:1...all... Lord God... Yahweh God...10 times!

Lord, Yahweh... the highest...most elevated name for God...the name that refers to His sovereignty over all things... God is Lord... but when the serpent talks he doesn't use God's highest name... he uses the common name for God.. Elohim... verse 1 **Indeed has God said...**

3. He casts doubt on God's character...

The serpent knows that the moment one does not completely...whole heartedly... unrelentingly trust in God's character...they are on their way to turn their backs on God... but the truth is... the moment one does not completely whole heartedly and unrelentingly trust in God's character... they're going down!

If there is a flaw in God's character... you can't trust Him on His word!... **All sin comes from distrusting God—His character.**

When we sin... what we are doing is thinking God can't satisfy us... even though He has promised to do so!...we also don't think God will really do anything about us sinning... if we really thought there would be consequences for our sins... we may think twice... but we sin... and so often nothing bad happens!... we think.

4. Satan redefines freedom—"freedom is complete autonomy"...*You can eat from any tree you want!... Don't let anyone tell you, you can't do something!...* I said earlier true freedom must have boundaries... Satan says there are no boundaries....

A great lie of today... remove God's boundaries and you have chaos!... Satan is having a field day in autonomous freedom!... *don't let anyone tell you what gender you are... what pronouns to use... that marriage is only between a man and a woman... that unborn life is sacred...you are free to do whatever you want!...IT'S YOUR BODY!.....ALL LIES!*

God wants to steal your joy...He wants to take away your freedom Eve!

Something else... notice in verse 3 Eve said in correcting the serpent... that God said **But from the tree which is in the midst of the garden... ‘you shall not eat from it. AND YOU SHALL NOT TOUCH IT...lest you die.**

You shall not touch it... God didn't say that... that was added to the command... it could have been added by Adam when he relayed to Eve what God said... Or it could have been added by Eve... why?... possibly to add to the idea that God was unreasonable, restrictive and stealing away her joy... The seed had been planted in her heart!

(4) And the serpent said to the woman... “you surely will not die!”

Satan goes in for the kill!...he's played it smooth until now... it is all out lies...

5. Satan ultimately contradicts God.

This is what he really wants!...Satan always wants to replace God and His authority... *Eve...you're not going to die!*. So...somebody's lying!...God or the serpent... If God says marriage is between a woman and a man.... The serpent says marriage is between a man and a man.

If God says it is **His will that you abstain from sexual immorality**... Satan says do whatever makes you feel good!... if God says **Thou shall not steal**... Satan says... *go ahead and cheat on your taxes... it's really your money... you can't afford to pay those.*

6. Satan plays on our pride

(5) For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

There is a great temptation to be like God... to know what only He knows...[Christianity today, theologians...]

a great verse all should memorize... Deuteronomy 29:29 **“The secret things belong to Yahweh our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may do all the words of this law.**

God created man as good but he didn't create him as His equal!

The knowledge of good and evil is a **“double knowledge”**...half of which Adam and Eve already had... the temptation to eat off the forbidden tree was not to get the knowledge of “Good”... they already had that...you're not tempted on the things God has already given to you to enjoy...

That's all they ever knew and experienced!... They were good...the garden was good...the plants, animals, everything was good... temptation came by wanting something that only God should have... the knowledge of evil.

Whatever that is...we want it!...because only God has it... and if we get it we will be like Him!

Ultimately, pride is extreme self-love and focus on oneself. “That kind of pride that stems from self-righteousness or conceit is sin, however, and God hates it because it is a hindrance to seeking Him... in fact... it's really an attempt to replace Him!

Proverbs 16:18, "Pride goes before destruction and a haughty Spirit before a fall."

So Eve has a decision to make... she's standing on a precipice which is where the tempted always stand... usually the time on the precipice is short...very short... because once the temptation has been elevated to this level... the prospect of victory over sin is greatly diminished...

That is why 2nd Timothy 2:22 says **"Flee from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart"**

(6) Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food... and that it was a delight to the eyes...and that the tree was desirable to make one wise... So... there are two and only two possibilities...

1. She listens to God and resists... flees... **get behind me Satan!...** or

2. She takes the tree's fruit and eats it in complete violation of God's command... "God said"

Watch what happens:

...so she took from it its fruit and ate....and she gave also to her husband with her and he ate. ...She saw... it was a delight to the eyes... it was desirable.... A couple of very insightful passages from the New Testament to consider:

James 1:14-15

14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully matured, it brings forth death.

14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

That's moving from thoughts to feelings... **carried away** are the initial thoughts...instead of thinking on **whatever is true, whatever is dignified, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, consider these things.** (Phil. 4:8)

But your mind gets distracted... *did God say that you cannot eat from ANY tree of the garden?....* that's the initial phase of being **carried away**...it starts in the mind.... Then it goes to your emotions...**that's being enticed by his own lusts**....Mind-----Emotion..... and then

15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin.... Self-fulfillment....

Mind...Emotions.... Self-fulfillment.... Results? **and when sin is fully matured, it brings forth death**....Judgement.

She saw the fruit... **her mind**.... **It was a delight to her eyes Her emotions**...it was desirable to make her wise... **self-satisfaction**.....Judgement.

Now look at this..... 1 John 2:16... this book must be truly the inspired word of God... seems to be pretty connected!!!

(16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

Are you ready?

She saw that the tree was good for food... lust of the flesh.

It was a delight to her eyes...lust of the eyes.

Desirable to make one wise...The pride of life.

What were the results in the garden?

They both ate the fruit... I don't know what Adam was doing all this time... but he was there when it was time to eat!

(7) and the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked... and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings... it's like that one year old toddler had her eyes opened and realized she was naked!

Their eyes were opened and they knew they were different than each other... as one said *they now know what they didn't even know what they knew.*

What is this?

Why now do we know to hide?

Why are we sowing fig leaves together?

Why are we putting them on our bodies?

Why are we wanting...having to.... Wear clothes?... what are clothes?

In no way did the man and woman know the ramifications of what just happened...but they were horrified!.... what is...horrified?