

# WEEK 3: THE CHALLENGE: FALL

**Core Truth:** Sin is placing our identity in something else other than God's story.

**Key Bible Verses:**

Genesis 3:1-13; Exodus 20:1-17;  
Luke 15:11-32

**New City Catechism:** Questions 16 & 17

**Sin is the despairing refusal to find your deepest identity in your relationship and service to God.**  
-Tim Keller

**Review/Recall:**

1. What is the question of identity? For purpose?
2. Where can we find our deepest identity?
3. God begins his story by creating with great delight
4. Our special identity and purpose it to be God's image-bearers.

**1. Sin is placing our identity in something else other than God's story.**

**Genesis 3:1-4**

**1** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

**2** The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, **3** but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

**4** "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. **5** "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- Sin starts by tempting us with uncertainty about our identity and story.
- The 10 Commandments name the greatest identity temptations that we all face.

**Ten Commandments - Exodus 20:1-17**

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| <b>1.</b> No other gods before God.       | <b>6.</b> Don't murder (or hate)                     |
| <b>2.</b> Don't make an image to worship  | <b>7.</b> Don't commit adultery (or lust)            |
| <b>3.</b> Treat God's name with reverence | <b>8.</b> Don't steal                                |
| <b>4.</b> Keep the Sabbath                | <b>9.</b> Don't lie                                  |
| <b>5.</b> Honor your father and mother    | <b>10.</b> Don't be jealous of your neighbor's stuff |

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### 2. Sin tarnishes image-bearers by causing shame, broken relationships, and death.

#### Genesis 3:6-13

**6** 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. **7** 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.

**8** 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. **9** But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

**10** He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." **11** And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

**12** The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

**13** Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- Shame emerges as an alternative storyteller to God.
- Shame teaches us to answer the question of identity—"Who am I?"—like this:
  - "I am not enough"
  - "There is something wrong with me"
  - "I am bad"
  - "I am unlovable"
  - "I don't matter"

*From: The Soul of Shame by Curt Thompson*

- Shame drives us to do things that flow out of these false identity.

### 3. God longs for us to still be his image-bearers.

- God never shames us.

## **WEEK 3: THE CHALLENGE: FALL**

### **Discussion Questions**

**1. If you were standing next to Adam and Eve, what would you have said to fight back against the serpent's lies? What did they need to be reminded about God? About themselves?**

**2. Which of the 10 commandments do you think our culture struggles with the most? Which are you most tempted by?**

**3. What does shame's voice sound like in you? How do you think God heart for you sounds like in contrast?**

**4. What's one thing you learned today? About yourself? About God?**

**5. Are there any questions we want to ask Pastor Daryl?**