



# gracefellowship

Series: Filter  
Date: September 18, 2022

Title: Never Enough  
Passage: Genesis 1:26-27

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3

What you believe about God is the most important thing about you. I had a seminary professor who was famous for saying, “Your view of God is the most important view you have; and to the extent that view is out of focus, your life will be out of focus.” – Gordon Borror

For Christians, the Bible is the lens we look through to understand God and to know Him in relationship. For the past few weeks we have been talking about developing a Biblical Worldview. Everyone above the age of about 13 has a worldview- and every worldview requires faith.

**A worldview is the lens through which we view the world and make decisions about how we will live.**

Having a biblical worldview means we look at the things happening in the world, past, present and even future, and determine how to understand those things based on what the Bible says and reveals to us.

Last week we addressed one of the first questions all worldviews seek to answer: Where did we come from and why are we here? The Bible is clear over and over again that an eternal God created a material universe for His glory. He made us in His image and invited us into relationship with Himself. Adam and Eve walked and talked with God in the garden He planted for them and enjoyed unfiltered access to their Creator.

Everything God made was good. On the final day of creation, the Bible tells us in Genesis 1:31...

**:: Genesis 1:31**

**31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.**

But when we look at the world today it is clear that things are not “very good.” There is disease and poverty and war and death and natural disasters. These things and more raise the second question every worldview attempts to answer:

**2<sup>nd</sup> question of a worldview:  
What is wrong with the world?**

It's pretty apparent when we look around our world that evil exists. When Moses was writing the book of Genesis, he was writing to a group of people who had been enslaved in Egypt for more than 300 years. After 300 years making bricks for Egyptian taskmasters and being in a polytheistic society, Moses wrote down the history of God's people to reintroduce them to God and to give them a filter through which they could understand the relationship God was calling them in to as a free people. They knew evil. They had personally experienced evil. Something is wrong with the world.

When you ask people where evil in the world comes from, you may get all kinds of different answers. A biblical worldview would answer the question this way:

**Evil is real and comes from rebellion against God- we call it sin.**

In Genesis 2 we see God give a specific location for Adam to live and a specific instruction for him to follow.

**:: Genesis 2:9 and 15-17**

**9 The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**

**15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.**

**16 And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;**

**17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”**

The world God created was good and everything in the world was made available to Adam to enjoy except for one tree. Moses even says the trees were pleasing to the eye and good for food. Adam could eat anything he wanted except the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

A biblical worldview reveals that God is sovereign. He created all things, therefore He makes the rules, He has authority and He exercises control. The question is, will we submit and surrender to God in order to remain in relationship

with Him? Or, when given the opportunity, will we seek to gain our own authority and take control for ourselves?

Are we content to allow God to be God over us- or do we want to be god of our lives?

The biblical answer to that question, and what is revealed in Genesis, is that when given the choice, most often we will seek to take control and rebel against God.

The first question that usually comes up when we look at this passage is, "Why did God even put that tree in the garden?" Wouldn't it have been easier if God created us with no ability to choose for ourselves, or no option to rebel against Him? God could have done that! But God gave us free will. He designed us for relationship with Himself. But what kind of love exists when it is forced? God's desire is for us to choose Him and love Him freely.

Here is the question God wants us to answer: Is a relationship with God enough? In the garden He provided everything Adam and Eve could ever want and He gave it to them freely. Then He placed restrictions around one tree. So, would all God provided to Adam and Eve be enough, or would they want more?

### **Evil is deceptive.**

In Genesis 3 evil comes in the form of a serpent and attempts to deceive Adam and Eve. The serpent speaks to Eve and asks a deceptive question: "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from *any* tree in the garden'?" Listen to the exchange that takes place:

**:: Genesis 3:2-6**

**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."**

**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.**

The serpent deceives Eve by convincing her God is holding out on her. He is withholding goodness- the ability to be like Him- therefore He is not good. The deception is, if God is so good, why doesn't He want you to have that tree and what it can do for you?

In fact, did you notice the difference in what was said in Genesis 2 and Genesis 3 to describe the trees?

Genesis 2: The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground- trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.

Genesis 3: 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.

The deception causes Eve to look at the fruit and see something different- now it is desirable for wisdom.

Here's the translation: God Himself isn't enough for you; you can be like God and have desires apart from Him that will meet your needs in a way He can't.

Let's make sure we are clear on something this morning. There was nothing magical about the fruit Adam and Eve ate. Eating the fruit didn't do anything to them physically or spiritually. Bending their will against God is what damned them. Their rebellion against God brought evil into their lives. They could have said, "no," right? They had a choice in the matter. The serpent doesn't force the food into their mouths. In fact, while Eve often gets the blame for this whole mess we find ourselves in, Adam was standing right there with her and did nothing! He's completely passive. Why? Because he bought the deception as well. Adam and Eve think there is more available in life as their own god than bending their knee to the one true God.

**Genesis is showing us when it comes to evil, God is not the problem- we are the problem!**

I love the movie The Greatest Showman. It has an amazing soundtrack. One of my favorite songs in the movie illustrates perfectly what I'm talking about. The song is called "Never Enough." Here's what it says:

All the shine of a thousand spotlights  
All the stars we steal from the night sky  
Will never be enough  
Never be enough  
Towers of gold are still too little  
These hands could hold the world but it'll  
Never be enough  
Never be enough  
For me

God puts a tree in the garden with a rule attached to it. But He didn't force them to eat the fruit. When given a choice to follow God or be god, we will choose

ourselves over Him almost every time! Somehow we think God can never be enough and we need to look somewhere else to be fulfilled. But that lie gets exposed really fast in the story.

Here's what we see next- sin takes root deeply and quickly. In the story as soon as they eat the fruit there is a realization almost immediately- they are naked. What is significant about that realization? They've always been naked, with no shame. But now that nakedness is exposed, they realize they are lacking. Sin opens their eyes to see they are incomplete. When they rebelled against God huge consequences immediately take shape.

First, they realize they are naked. But they also recognize their sin causes shame. When God comes to walk with them in the cool of the day they hide from Him. An event that used to bring them joy and satisfaction now causes them despair. When God calls out, "Where are you?" Adam responds, "I heard you in the garden and I was *afraid* because I was naked; so I *hid*."

What's wrong with the world?

**The truth about sin is that it is not *only* about breaking God's moral law. Breaking God's moral law always hurts relationship.**

**Sin breaks relationship with God.**

Adam and Eve hid from God. God even has to ask, "Where are you?" That doesn't mean God lost Adam and Eve. God knows everything. This is a question of relational location, not physical location. God knows they are not where they are supposed to be. They are hiding instead of running to be with God.

**Sin breaks relationship with one another.**

What's the first thing Adam does? Throw Eve under the bus. And in a very real way, Adam blames God! "The woman you put here with me- she gave me some of the fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

The next series of events told in Genesis focus on Adam and Eve's sons, Cain and Abel. We are only one generation into the story of humanity when we have the first murder that takes place because Cain is jealous of his brother and angry with God.

Sin is still wreaking havoc on our relationships today.

**Sin breaks relationship with the whole created order.**

There are consequences that come with sin.

For Adam, the ground will now work against him and not be easy to subdue. It will produce thorns and thistles and getting food to grow will be difficult.

For Eve, there will be pain in childbirth. The command to fill the earth so it can be subdued will be a painful process.

**:: Romans 8:20-22**

**20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope**

**21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.**

**22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.**

But here's the good news in all of this:

**Evil is defeated!**

God did not abandon us to our sinfulness. He sent His Son, Jesus to rescue us and pay the penalty of our sins. We are not left to die in our sinful nature. But we are also not forced to accept Jesus. God operates the same with His offer of salvation that He did with the tree. He wants us to choose Him. God will not force Himself on you. I can't convince you with enough facts and information to follow Jesus- nor would I want to.

**Josh McDowell once said, "All the evidence in the world did not bring me to Christ. What it did was get my attention. It's like I was slamming the door on God, and He stuck his foot in the door with the evidence. Once I believed the Bible was true, once I believed that Christ was more than human and probably the Son of God, then and only then did I even consider the message of the Bible. As I started to read and study the Bible, what brought me to Christ was the love of God. "I have loved you with an everlasting love. With tender kindness, I have drawn you." (Jeremiah 31:3)**

It is the love of God and the kindness of God that leads us to repentance. Our rebellion against God has broken everything good He made. But He is at work to restore all things and He will one day make all things new again, bringing everything under His sovereign rule and reign. On that day, those who know Him and love Him and choose to follow Him will be with Him forever. And those who choose to reject Him will be separated from Him forever.

My prayer is that you would recognize how deeply God loves you today and that you would fall in love with Him.

- Response Time and Prayer