

What We are Up Against

The Art and Foundations of Parenting, for Everyone

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Genesis 3 gives us vital insight into the world we are living in, and what we are up against:

3:1 “*more cunning*” -

1. There is a shrewd and _____ personification of evil in this world
2. The LORD gave _____ for the man and woman to fulfill their cultural and historical mandate [Gen 1:26-28].
3. The serpent _____ Eve directly, and shamed the LORD indirectly to Eve.

*A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I came to give life—
life in all its fullness. John 10:10 NCV*

4. This whole interaction is taking place with _____. This is the world being turned upside down, all part of the clever and shrewd calculations of the serpent.

The "Upside Down":

v.13 Eve speaks the truth is saying she has been _____

Deceive --to give a mistaken impression and to cause (someone) to believe something that is not true, typically in order to gain some personal advantage

v. 16 Pain will be greatly increased in childbirth. Tension is now in the home, there is striving to rule between husband and wife.

vv. 17-19 The land is cursed. It will take hard work and be a challenge just to survive. Physical death and a return to the earth is our lot.

vv.23-24 The LORD drives the former king and queen from the garden. They are outside this place of union of heaven and earth, this place of delight, the place of the LORD's presence, in death. We see death for what it is -- exile, away from the LORD's presence.

vv.14-15 There is now hostility between this aggressive, evil enemy and humanity. It is _____. This evil being is set on harming and destroying the generations of mankind.

The story goes from bad to worse, Genesis 4-11:

1. There are destructive interactions in all of culture and society that take place between rebel spiritual beings and human beings [Gen 6:1-4; chapters 10,11; 1 Peter 3:18-20; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6]
2. Humanity is really messed up in their attitudes and actions
3. At Babel humanity was dispersed into people groups in distinct lands under the rule of rebel spiritual beings in exile away from the LORD's presence. Deuteronomy 32:8-9
4. Humanity is carrying out the cultural and historical mandate under spiritual oppression in _____ against the LORD.

The Serpent's strategy is the same as it was in the attack against Adam and Eve. Twisting the truth, distorting reality, creating shame and causing doubt, false accusations and outright lies against ourselves, our purpose, and against God. The human heart is the place of the most significant battles ever waged.

*Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.
Proverbs 4:23 NLT*

Two ways of Guarding our Hearts:

1. Think critically, don't be fooled, beware of and _____ the dangers.
2. Live in the _____

God's word is alive and working and is sharper than a double-edged sword. It cuts all the way into us, where the soul and the spirit are joined, to the center of our joints and bones. And it judges the thoughts and feelings in our hearts. Hebrews 4:12 NCV

For your worship at home: What part of this message are you going to take hold of and respond to this morning?