

The Fall of Man
Genesis 3

In Genesis we have the perfect couple in a perfect paradise (2:25). Seven verses later they are both ashamed and hiding from God.

Sermon titles “Trouble in Paradise” or “The Honeymoon is Over” (Richard Strauss).

How did what God called *very good* (Gen 1:31) become so very bad? How did this one act of disobedience impact the entire human race and all creation to this present day?

- The presence of sin in the universe – The first form of rebellion was found in the heart of Lucifer before the completion of creation (Isa 14; Ezek 28; Luke 10; Rev 12).
- The presence of sin on the earth – Just as he had led rebellion in heaven, so Satan seeks to lead rebellion on earth.

A. The Strategy

1. Challenge the Word of God **v. 1** – *Cunning* (shrewd; prudent), Satan’s motive was to deceive the original pair.

*You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. **John 8:44** (NIV)*

- a. He creates doubt – He changed God’s statement (2:17) into a question.
 - b. He conceals information – He doesn’t tell everything
 - c. He clouds truth – God emphasized the provision (2:16) while Satan emphasized the prohibition.
2. Challenge the character of God
 - a. “God is a liar” **v. 4**
 - b. “God is a tyrant” **v. 5** – “You’re missing out,” “He is trying to control you,” “Make your own decisions,” “Be your own boss.”

*But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. **2 Cor 11:3** (NIV)*

B. The Sin

1. The sin of Eve **v. 6a** – In rapid succession she saw...she took...she ate...she gave.
 - a. The appeal to her physical appetite – *The tree was good for food*
 - b. The appeals to her visual senses – *Pleasant to the eyes*
 - c. The appeal to her pride – *Desire to make one wise*

*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. **1 John 2:15-16** (NIV)*

2. The sin of Adam **v. 6b** – Eve was supposed to be Adam's helper, but here she helps Adam sin against God. As spiritual head, he is ultimately responsible for the sin.

C. The Sentence

Adam and Eve lost their innocence (v. 7) and their intimacy with God (v. 8).

1. The proof of their guilt – They do not deny but try to deflect their disobedience.
 - a. The guilt of Adam **v. 9-12** – He is addressed first because he is the spiritual head. He initially blesses God for Eve (2:23) and now he blames God for Eve (3:12).
 - b. The guilt of Eve **v. 13**
2. The punishment of their guilt – The holiness of God demanded sin be dealt with.
 - a. The sentence on the serpent **v. 14-15**
 - b. The sentence on the woman **v. 16** – Struggle in motherhood and marriage
 - c. The sentence on the man **v. 17-19** – His sin effected more than his own life. In chapters 1-2 “God said” brought life; chapter 3 “Satan said” brought death.

- Chaos of creation (Rom 8:19-22)
- Callouses of labor
- Condemnation of mankind

*When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. **Rom 5:12** (NLT)*

D. The Salvation

It appears that God is harsh and hard but there is great grace in this chapter.

1. The pursuit of grace **v. 9** – It is God looking for Adam
2. The promise of grace **v. 15** – The enmity (intense hostility) would be addressed by the bruising of both the serpent and the Seed of the woman (Gal 4:4).
The difference in the bruises is the location of the wound.
3. The picture of grace **v. 21** – The slaughter of an innocent lamb to provide covering.
4. The provision of grace **v. 22-24** – If Adam were permitted to eat of the tree of life in his fallen condition, he would have remained in that state forever.

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- The presence of sin on the _____

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- He creates _____
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a. The guilt of Adam **v. 9-12**

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