

Theme: Satan always tempts us to doubt God's word and His motives, and to seek our autonomy rather than submit to God.

## I. Intro – Good and Evil in Creation

- A. Creation was very good (Gen 1:31)
  - 1. God formed and fashioned creation
  - 2. Each component was good
  - 3. Creation was very good
- B. What happened? We are not in Kansas, Toto!
  - 1. Pain and problems abound
  - 2. Proper diagnosis is critical to healing

## II. God's Provision and Command

- A. God's bountiful provision for humanity
  - 1. Relationships – God, self, others, creation
  - 2. Work – rule the earth for God!
  - 3. Food – free eat from any tree (v16-17)
- B. God's Command – not from this tree
  - 1. One tree is reserved (vv16-17)
  - 2. The penalty – death (v17)
  - 3. The issue – obedience or autonomy

## III. The Temptation and the Fall

- A. The Tempter - the shrewd serpent (2:25-3:1)
  - 1. The serpent is shrewd (3:1)
  - 2. Play on words with “nude/naked” (2:25-3:1)
  - 3. Genesis silent, but Satan behind this (Rev 12:9; 20:2)
- B. The pattern of temptation
  - 1. Distort the Word to produce doubt (vv1-3)
    - a. Serpent shrewdly distorts command (v1)
    - b. Eve subtly changes God's command (vv2-3)
      - i. Drops free and any – reduces God's provision
      - ii. Adds don't touch – more restrictive
    - c. Doubt – what is God saying and why?
  - 2. Deny the Word (v4)
    - a. Serpent flatly denies God's Word (v4)
    - b. Doubt leads to direct denial of Word
  - 3. Defame God's motives (v5)
    - a. Serpent accuses God of impure motives (v5)
    - b. God is holding you back and down!
- C. The purpose of temptation – incite autonomy (v5)

1. The real temptation – autonomy
  2. The real goal – be like God!
  3. The central issue – who rules – God or us?
- D. The outcome – disobedience
1. Eve is no longer looking at God but fruit (v6)
  2. Similar triad in 1 John 2:15-17, Luke 4
  3. The tragic act (v6; re-enact; Kidner)
- E. The result – paradise lost
1. Eyes open; shame (v7)
  2. God provides clothing (v21)
  3. Banished from Paradise (v22)

#### **IV. Applying the Word**

- A. Do we fall prey to Satan's temptation?
1. Do we accurately know the Word or distort it?
  2. Do we listen to denials of the Word?
  3. Do we doubt God's motives?
  4. Meditate on the Word – *Blink*
- B. Do we recognize God's generous provision?

1. God is very generous – do we see and thank?
  2. Do we doubt God's goodness when we don't understand?
- C. Follow Christ – not Adam!
1. Adam had all but Deity – and wanted more
  2. Christ had all including Deity but did not grasp
- D. Communion – Christ Our Covering
1. Kidner quote – the difference in take and eat
  2. Christ covers our nakedness with His righteousness
  3. Come receive God's provision in Christ

#### **Paradise Lost - The Fall of Mankind**

Genesis 2:16-17; 2:25-3:7

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Communion

Numbers 6

<sup>9</sup> The great dragon was hurled down-- that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Revelation 12:9

So simple the act, so hard its undoing. God will taste poverty and death before 'take and eat' become verbs of salvation" (Derek Kidner in Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries)