



The Discipleship Project of Horizon Central

Level #1 Series #5 Study #2

Topic: The Fall of Man

1. At the end of God's creative efforts on the sixth day, we see that He "saw all that he made and it was very good" (**Genesis 1:31a**). Would you describe the world as "very good" today? Why or why not?
2. Though the Bible describes creation as originally very good, it says that something later went wrong. Read **Genesis 3** to find out what happened.
3. There were two special trees. See **Genesis 2:9**. But what are these trees and why are they special?
 - a. The Tree of Life; it is for preserving and promoting life (see **Genesis 3:22** live forever). This tree is on either side of the river of life flowing from the throne of God in **Revelation 22:2, 14**. There are also the following figurative uses in Proverbs: **3:18** (wisdom), **11:30** (fruit of righteousness), **13:12** (longing fulfilled), **15:4** (healing).
 - b. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Think about **Deuteronomy 1:39** (knowing good from bad) and **1 Kings 3:9** (distinguishing right from wrong).
4. Now read **Genesis 2:16-17** and **3:1-6** again. Do you see how the serpent denies the clear word of God? How does Eve distort it? See the warnings in **Deuteronomy 4:2** and **Revelation 22:18-19**.
5. Temptation follows a pattern (see **1 John 2:15-16**). Follow the pattern in **Genesis 3:6**. It was "good for food" (lust of the flesh), "pleasing to the eye" (lust of the eyes), and "desirable for gaining wisdom" (the pride of life). Knowing the pattern, can we see this same thing in the temptations in our lives? How so?
6. See **Genesis 3:6** again. She took some and ate, gave it to Adam and he ate. Thus the Fall of Man, a central element of the Bible. See: **Eccl 7:29, Rom 5:12, 1 Cor 15:21-22, 2 Cor 11:3** and **1 Tim 2:13-14**.
7. The man and the woman reacted to the fall by trying to cover themselves (**Genesis 3:7**) and hide from God (**Genesis 3:8-10**). The man blamed God and his wife (**Genesis 3:12**). She in turn blamed the serpent who tempted her (**Genesis 3:13**). Remember **Genesis 3:6**: They both ate and so are responsible. How does this compare to what we do now, as individuals or as the whole human race, when we sin?
8. As a result of sin, everything changed. Read **Genesis 3:14-19** again. Also see **Romans 6:23** and **8:18-22**. Yet, in all this, we are given the very first sign of our salvation. Look back at **Genesis 3:15**. The church has traditionally seen in this verse the first prophecy in the Bible of the Messiah. Christ is "the seed of the woman" who will bruise the head of the serpent.
9. After this study, how well do you think the Bible explains our present human condition? Do you think the world and the human race seem to be "created very good, but now very deeply corrupted"?

"Note how obedience to the command is the one virtue of Paradise, the one condition of man's abiding there, the one thing his Creator asks of him. Nothing is said of faith, or humility, or love: obedience includes all. As supreme as is the claim and authority of God is the demand for obedience as the one thing that is to decide his destiny."

(Andrew Murray, from The School of Obedience)