

Lesson 12 Genesis 3:6-7

Genesis for Families

Genesis 3:6 ¶ And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.⁷ And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

The temptations of the devil are very subtle and come in the form of suggestions or glimpses of things that by nature we will desire. Often the devil will use other people we know who have already fallen into his trap to entice us to follow their lead.

In this passage we see Satan first try to just tell Eve that the word of God is not true. Eve makes a mistake and adds to what God has said but this isn't where she fails at being obedient to God. Eve checks this out personally and sees that *the tree is pleasant and desirable*. She has listened to the word of the devil not God, and now adds to it her own wisdom and desire without comparing this desire to the word of God.

Eve immediately lets Satan use her to cause another to fall when she turns and gives the fruit to Adam. From the text it is reasonable to believe that Adam was present for the whole time and did not step in as the head of the household and stop Eve from disobeying God. Adam then eats of the fruit without further question. So as Scripture indicates Eve was the first to sin, but it is the willing sin of Adam that will bring the curse on the whole earth.

Adam was the head and responsible to protect Eve from these temptations. The most important point for all of mankind however is that all to follow are represented in Adam and Adam's sin will let death and destruction enter the lives of all mankind.

Adam and Eve knew not to eat of the tree because God had forbidden it. Scripture only records God giving the command to Adam but Eve in answering Satan shows she knew what God commanded. Suddenly they knew they were naked and sought to cover themselves. This on the surface seems odd since there was no other person but God around. The difference is guilt because they knew they had sinned against God and were guilty whereas before they did not know such shame. They are not trying to hide their bodies from each other since they are husband and wife but to cover their own sin. Knowledge of evil came through the devil and suddenly they had something to hide.

Since the fall of Adam we are born with this knowledge of good and evil and mankind by nature does know what he should and should not do. We can see this demonstrated in the youngest of children who will look around to see if anyone is watching before they do something they have been told not to do. We can also notice this in how children who are into things they should not be get very quiet so they do not attract attention to themselves.

Application

We cannot trust our own judgment alone in anything we do or say. We need to learn and hide in our hearts the word of God and constantly check out what we are thinking and doing against this only source of truth. When in doubt we don't just ask another person though that person may be older and more knowledgeable in the Bible. If we have questions we can ask someone we trust, but we check their advice and our own instincts against the Bible. The Bible alone becomes our only guide for how we obey God and live life.

The devil will tempt every single person alive at one time or another. These temptations are sneaky and often come to us through others whom we may trust. As children we are commanded by God to obey our parents and our parents are given a particular responsibility from God to help us grow up in the knowledge of God. However the sin is not our parents but our own when we listen to others and do things that are against the word of God. Each person answers to God for their own sins.

Questions

- Who sinned first, Adam or Eve?
- Which sin was of more importance to mankind as a whole?
- Why was one sin more important than the other to us even though both sinned in the same way?
- Why is it so easy for us to fall for the temptations of the devil?
- How can we avoid sinning against God?