

**Beginnings: Know Thine Enemy**  
Genesis 3:1-7

**Know that the Enemy is a Denier of God's Goodness**

- There are important and difficult questions raised in Genesis 3:1-7.
  - The introduction of evil into the world is not an academic question but a personal agony.
  - In the end, we have to confess that the God of all the earth knows right and will do right.
- The emphasis in the text lies more on the serpent's tactics than the serpent's origin.
  - We are told that the serpent is more crafty than any other beast of the field.
    - The term "crafty" can be good or bad in the Bible.
    - The ambiguity of the term fits the subtlety of the serpent.

*Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:14)*
  - His initial temptation is both suggestive and subtle. (v. 2)
    - Satan is not just wrong about God's command but wrong about God's character.
    - The idea that God is withholding something is a Satanic staple.
  - We imagine that God is miserly, but the Bible actually says and shows otherwise.
 

*For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. (Psalm 84:11)*

    - God is a good, loving Father, wisely and generously blessing His people.
    - Even the prohibitions of God are not arbitrary but lovingly and carefully crafted.
    - God steers us from sin because sin reduces us to less than we are created to be.
    - Do you trust that God is good? Generous? Large-hearted toward you?
- Consider...
  - Beholding God's goodness in the cross.
 

*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:31-32)*
  - Being reminded of God's goodness in the weekly gathering of the church.

### Know that the Enemy is a Deceiver regarding God's Word

- Eve doesn't rightly know or trust God's good Word.
  - She has reservations about the firmness of God's command.
  - She has misunderstandings about the details of God's command.
- Sensing weakness, the serpent strikes. (v. 4)
  - Satan flatly denies the penalty for sin.
  - The greatest lie of all is that sin has no price tag.
- The Bible tells us that sin is deadly from first to last.
  - The final penalty of sin is death.
  - The continual payoff of sin is death.
    - Sin robs us of the abundant life God intends.
    - Sin never pays what is promises.
- Application:
  - Jesus showed us a firm reliance on God's Word in the face of temptation.
  - Jesus established His church as a buttress of truth in a world filled with lies.

*He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. (Titus 1:9)*

### Know that the Enemy is a Destroyer of God's Order

- Notice that the temptation in v. 5 is something that they already really possess as image bearers.
- But the serpent "offers" more—autonomy and self-rule.
  - There are only two ways to live—we can live as creatures or as would-be kings.
  - Only living under God's rule brings blessing; everything else brings ruin and misery.
- Application:
  - For those who are toying with sin, see clearly the lonely end of sin. (vv. 6-7)
  - For those who are tired of sin, hear clearly the loving offer of grace and forgiveness.

*She took of its fruit and ate... (Genesis 3:6)*

*Take, eat; this is my body. (Matthew 26:26)*