

GENESIS 3:1-8 *Our identity as marvelously created in God's image has been marred and damaged. There is a long journey ahead for those wishing to have that image fully restored in them.*

Let's Review:

- Genesis One - I am created in God's image. God the Father knows and declares who I am.
- Genesis 2:4-19 - I have been created for God's purposes – to bring him glory before all the angels. In this I will find my greatest joy and satisfaction.
- Genesis 2:18-25 - God has made us male and female. We are different aspects of the glory of God. In marriage we fit together to fulfill God's plans.

I. INTRODUCTION

- You don't have to be a rocket scientist....
- The devolution of humanity & the myth of human social progress

II. HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ **So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.**

⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (Genesis 3)

¹⁶ For all that is in the world-- the *desires of the flesh* and the desires of the eyes and pride of life-- is not from the Father but is from the world. (1John 2)

- Man made with the ability to obey: Rational Mind; Moral Will, the Desires to follow

III. WHAT WAS THE RESULT?

- We lead with our desires

“What the heart longs for, the will chooses, and the mind justifies” – Archbishop Thomas Cranmer

- The intrinsic behavior of the first glorious Man has been stood on its head!

IV. WHAT FOLLOWS NEXT?

- Humanity continues to devolve:

⁵ The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually..... ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.... ⁹ ... Noah walked with God. (Genesis 6)

- Societies rise / decline /are replaced
- What about us personally?

V. WHERE ARE WE AT TODAY?

- Emotionally Malfunctioning
 - o We are genetically *programmed* to long for what we should & what we shouldn't
 - o Fortunately, not all
- Relationally Broken
 - o Narcissism replaces love
 - o Lies/blaming replace partnership
 - o Gossip and rebellion replace trustworthiness
- Cognitively Confused
 - o Self-Understanding blurred – not glorious but shameful
 - o Sexuality bent – not a beautiful fact of our life – but cover it up/hide behind the leaves.

VI. HOW SHALL WE RESPOND?

- One way to respond: canonize our corruption
 - o God's definitions still matter
- Condemn and be a Pharisee
- Who's in the mirror?
- Be transformed