

Fact Sheet for **“Original Sin”**  
**Genesis 3:1-13**

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09/08/2019

We live as Christians in a non-Christian world. We hold the Bible to be the inspired word of God, and we aspire to live by it, but sometimes this puts us at odds with our culture. Today the politically correct sexual morality is LGBTQ. This is not biblical morality! But the laws and rules of our society are more and more requiring people to embrace this morality. How should we as Christians respond... in our choices, in our words, and in our actions?

This is the second of six sermons in this series. In these sermons I will focus on good theology rather than on detailing what is out there in our world. In the first sermon I focused on one aspect of Theology Proper, that is what the Bible says about God Himself. We looked at 1 John 1:5-10, and centered on verse 5. This verse clearly indicates that God is absolutely and entirely pure and righteous. There is no hint of any evil in Him at all. The grammar of this verse emphasizes this. This second sermon is on one aspect of Anthropology, that is what the Bible says about man. We will be looking at Genesis 3 and Original Sin.

In Genesis 2:16-17 God gave Adam the command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It was only after God gave Adam this command that Eve was created (Genesis 2:18-23). And it was Adam's responsibility to make certain this command was followed. Satan would not approach Adam, but instead approached Eve.

**ESV <sup>1</sup> 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'?"**

Satan was already being deceptive by saying “any tree”. The tone of Satan's question was meant to separate Eve from a firm trust in God.

**<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> 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.'"**

Eve added “neither shall you touch it” to God's command. It makes you wonder if Adam had added this when communicating God's command to his wife.

**<sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.**

This was an out and out lie, and Eve would buy it. Satan continued to give Eve ideas that would later separate her from trust in God.

**<sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."**

Yes and no... Their eyes would be opened. They would know good and evil. But although God knows what evil is there is absolutely no evil in Him. On the other hand Adam and Eve would be personal participants in evil. Here Satan gave Eve the thought that it was God who was being deceptive.

**<sup>6</sup> 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.**

Eve bought Satan's lie that the fruit of this tree was to be desired to make one wise. Eve was walking away from trust in God. But here's the crucial question. Where was Adam? This verse says he was

“with her”. He was watching as Eve started to change her thinking, would pick the fruit, and would take a bite. He did not stop her. Adam had the responsibility before God to put a stop to all of this, but instead he went along with it. Now, who sinned first... Eve when she decided to eat the fruit... or Adam when he chose not to enforce God’s command? The effect was immediate and dramatic.

**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.**

Think about this. The first indication of their fallen nature was sexual. It wasn’t the fact that they were naked that was sin. They had been naked since they were created. But their thinking about their nakedness had changed and they felt shame. The poison of sin began to spread throughout their nature.

**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.**

In shame they tried to hide themselves from the presence of God.

**9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."**

Adam gave a reason that was not the real reason. He didn’t hide himself just because he was naked. They were already covered in fig leaves. He hid himself because he knew he had disobeyed God’s command. Adam was lying.

**11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"**

God went right to Adam’s disobedience. Then both Adam and Eve resorted to blaming others.

**12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."**

Adam blamed Eve, and even God himself (“The woman you gave me”). Eve blamed the serpent. Later the Apostle Paul would write Romans 5:12. He laid the cause of the fall directly on Adam, not Eve. But there is something else we can garner from this verse in Romans. Our sin natures are the result of Adam’s sin (“through one man”). When children are born they already have sin natures. Sin began to expand exponentially after the fall. Consider Cain & Abel (Genesis 4:1-16), Lamech (Genesis 4:17-24), the limit on life (Genesis 6:1-3), the increase of wickedness (Genesis 6:5-8), and the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9). The story of God’s plan of salvation beginning with Abraham would begin in Genesis 12.

Here’s the point. We all have a sin nature, and we all sin. God’s message of salvation in Jesus Christ is what everyone needs. But when people actively reject the Word of God, like our society is doing, evil will flourish. The morality of our society has changed rapidly for the worse in the last fifty years. I expect this trend to continue. I can only imagine what the next few decades will bring, barring the Lord’s return. But until the Lord’s return we still need to live here in faithfulness to God. What’s taking place in the world around us is unfortunate, but not unexpected. We need to think carefully about how to respond in our choices, in our words, and in our actions. We can still be salt and light as we live as Christians in a non-Christian world.

I will end with this thought. Given the purity of God and the sinfulness of man I find Philippians 2:5-8 some of the most thought-provoking verses in scripture.

What a cost God paid for our redemption!