

Let's Start at the Beginning: Genesis 1-11

June 20th, 2021

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Trust Issues (Genesis 2:9, 16-17; Genesis 3:1-6)

1. God's Test – Who will You Trust? (2:9, 16-17)

2. The Serpent's Trick – Sowing Distrust (3:1-5)

3. Humanity's Trade-off – Self-Trust (3:6)

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Going Deeper:

2. Why does God place two trees in the garden (2:9, 16-17)? What does each tree represent? In the garden, Adam and Eve were innocent, but not yet perfect. Why is it critical that we understand this distinction (see Deuteronomy 8:2; Hebrews 5:8)? Ultimately, what does God wish to cultivate in his people?
3. Why is it significant that the serpent is a "*beast of the field*" (3:1)? What bearing does this have on how we understand the origin of evil? How do we see the serpent's craftiness in this passage (3:1)? In what sense are his statements "*true*" (3:1-5; see vv. 7, 22)? In what sense are they lies?
4. Eve "*saw that the tree was good for food*" (3:6). What does it mean that she "*saw*" this? Why is this statement significant in the context of Genesis 1-3 (see Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)? How do Adam and Eve's rebellion invert the order of God's creation (3:6; See also Genesis 1:26-31; 2:15; Romans 1:18-23)?

Application:

5. The serpent sows distrust in three ways; he cause us to distrust the clarity of God's word, the nearness of God's presence, and the goodness of God's character (3:1-5). How does this help us better understand the nature of temptation? How do each of these temptations lead us to trust in ourselves, and rebel against God? Which of these stood out to you? Which have you experienced recently?
6. Why is sin fundamentally a *trusting* problem rather than a *trying* problem? How does this cause us to re-conceptualize the problem of sin, and what a "*sinner*" might look like (regardless of how outwardly moral they appear)? If distrust is our fundamental problem, then how do we cultivate trust in God?
7. What's one thing from this week's sermon that you can apply to your life?

Genesis 2:9, 16-17; Genesis 3:1-6

“And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” (Genesis 2:9)

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)

“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.” (Genesis 3:1-6)