



October 14/15, 2011
Genesis 3:6-13
"Don't Eat That!"
Pastor Gary Hamrick

This study centers on one of the most important chapters in the Bible regarding the "Fall of Man." This is one of the chapters about which you could say, "If you don't get this, then the rest of the Bible won't make much sense, and neither will life." If we don't first recognize what went wrong with the human race and just how lost we all are, then it stands to reason that we won't understand our need for a Savior.

In last week's study, Pastor Gary pointed out the fact that Satan subtly seduced Eve with lies and deception. He distorted the Word of God in order to deceive the people of God, which caused them to disobey the will of God. That's exactly what happens in this chapter. Eve believed the lies of Satan, namely that God isn't true and he's not good.

We read in [1 John 2:15-16](#)¹ that there are three main points of entry for sin: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. The KJV says it best: *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."*

It's easy to see that all sin finds its way into our hearts through one or more of these portals, and we see this illustrated when Eve sinned. [Genesis 3:6](#) says, *"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food [lust of the flesh] and pleasing to the eye [lust of the eyes], and also desirable for gaining wisdom [pride of life], she took some and ate it."* In this case, Satan appealed to the basic human instincts of appetite, eyes and pride.

¹ *"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world."* (NIV 1984)

Is every appetite wrong? Every appetite isn't wrong. Consider that God has given us an appetite for food, and because he knows we need it to survive, an appetite for food is not sin. However, it can become sin if it leads to gluttony.

God has also given us an appetite for sex, so sex isn't wrong when it is reserved for marriage between one man and one woman. It's when people seek to satisfy this appetite outside of God's version of marriage that it becomes sin.

What about our eyes? Is everything we look at sin? No, but there are some things we shouldn't look at. That's why Job said in [Job 31:1](#), *"I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl."*

What about pride? Is it wrong to be proud of your kids or your husband or your wife? What about pride in your work? God has no prohibition against these things. There is, however, a pride that is haughty, arrogant and self-righteous, all of which God considers sin.

How can you tell the difference? One of the things about being made in the *"image"* and *"likeness"* of God is that he has given us a conscience as part of his divine nature. Conscience is an internal moral compass to instinctively know right from wrong, and conscience is the reason the human race hasn't annihilated itself to date! It's conscience that restrains evil human behavior. Just watch the evening news and you'll see a varying assortment of all the terrible things that happen to people when someone else's conscience isn't working. That's why laws, police and jails are necessary for people like that.

We can see the same thing in history when we consider evil regimes that rise where Satan has influence and where conscience is disregarded. Thankfully, many times good people with good conscience rise up, band together, and force out evil regimes.

When a person is saved their conscience gets a name - the Holy Spirit - and they experience a heightened awareness of right and wrong, as well as receiving a power to better resist the wrong and do what's right! What happened with Eve is that she ignored her conscience, the God-given moral compass, and thus temptation found an entry point.

Believers today need to understand there will be times when their conscience will be really strong and their resolve to not give in will be great. It's also true that there will be times when a person's intellect will wrestle with their conscience. Trouble will naturally surface when people rationalize things in their mind and think they know better than

the God-given compass. It's during these times when people need to be reminded that sometimes it's wrong just because God said so.

Children, sometimes lack the wisdom, experience and perspective to comprehend the "Why?" behind every parental decision that may not like. The same can be said of adults, too. After all, since when is the Creator of the Universe obligated to explain the "Why?" behind his commands. It's often the case that in Scripture God gives a command and then attaches either a blessing for obedience or a consequence for disobedience. However, we don't find it to be the case that God explains all of the factors behind his reasoning. For example, in [Genesis 2:16](#), God gave a command and a consequence if Adam disobeyed, but there was no explanation behind it. So when Eve's intellect was wrestling with her conscience, she should have simply said, "No! Because God said so!"

One of the tragedies in the [Genesis 3](#) account is that Adam was derelict in his duty; he willfully refused to be the spiritual leader of his home. He didn't realize there's a war between good and evil, light and darkness, and life and death. We need to understand that every man is required to step up and be a courageous, masculine, godly leader for his family. Sadly, Adam, in this case, was not, and we know this to be the case because [Genesis 3:6b](#) says, *"She also gave to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."* Adam stood idly by instead of stepping in to defend his wife and God's honor. He watched Satan come, attack the truth of God's Word, and deceive the woman he loved. He also watched his wife step forward to lead the family because he wasn't willing to lead, and he watched her eat the fruit while he stood by and did nothing.

Adam should have said, "Serpent, I'm not going to allow you to malign the character of my God or deceive my wife. I'm not going to allow you to distort the truth and, by the way, I've been given dominion over you, so you might as well get out of here. Now!" He didn't lead, but when he wouldn't be a godly leader, Eve should have called out to God: "God, my husband is not defending the truth of your Word, he isn't leading our family or protecting our home, and he isn't fighting the serpent!"

Since she didn't cry out to God, the root of feminism stepped up to lead. It's not the case that she just stepped up because Adam wouldn't. It's in this account that some people see three options to explain what happened, either: the man leads the family, the woman leads the family or Satan leads the family.

Why do you think Satan went after the woman? His plan was to subvert and invert God's order in the family, and it's still his plan today. It's as if Satan is saying, "If I can invert God's authority in the family, if I can break the marriage order, if I can get men to be silent, passive cowards and cause them to sit idly by while chaos and confusion

consumes and destroys their own families, and if I can get women to assume the man's role and step up to fill the gap, then I've succeeded!"

The next thing we see is Adam and Eve trying to hide from the All-Seeing, All-Knowing, eternal God of the Universe! This isn't anything new, because we can see people doing this today. [Hebrews 4:13](#)² reminds us that it was true then and it's true today: "You can run but you can't hide!"

God doesn't want things to remain in a state of disruption, he just wants them to repent, and that's why he essentially said, "Where are you in relation to me?" He didn't need to ask where they were, he just wanted to give them an opportunity to repent and come clean, so to speak.

Humorously, the next few verses reveal an almost comedic situation. Adam blames Eve and God, too! He's saying, "Don't look at me, Lord. Everything was fine when it was just you and me, but, 'you know who' came along and she's been a pain in my side ever since. Literally!" Eve gets her turn to shift the blame when she basically says, "Don't look at me, Lord. That freak in the tree, the one with the tongue, he deceived me."

What is it that God wants from us? The same thing he wanted from Adam and Eve. He wants each of us to take responsibility for our sin and to confess it so that we can be in right relationship with him. He's still asking the same question: "Where are you in relation to me?"

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [Genesis 3:6-13](#) to provide an overview for this study.
3. Read and discuss [1 John 2:15-16](#).
 - a. Spend time talking about some of the ways you've been able to keep a proper perspective regarding the *"things that are in the world"*?
 - b. Share examples about times when things have gotten out of order and trouble followed.
 - c. Allow the people in your group to talk about specific incidents when the influence of the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life caused them to sin.

² "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

- d. What were some of the lasting consequences?
 - e. How did the Lord do the work of forgiveness and restoration?
4. What counsel would you give that would help others avoid falling into the traps of Satan regarding the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life?
(Genesis 3:6)
5. Read and discuss Job 31:1.
- a. Do you think the lust of the eyes is primarily a problem for men?
 - b. Someone has said, "It's not the first look that is sin; it's the second look."
 - i. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
 - c. Spend time talking about things and situations men and women need to be aware of regarding the lust of the eyes.
6. Have there been times in your life when pride went beyond the sense of accomplishment in a job well done, etc.?
7. Spend time talking about the influence of conscience in the life of the Believer.
- a. Share examples of times when the Lord saved you from serious trouble or circumstances because you listened to the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Was it hard for you to have a strong resolve to resist sin?
8. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences concerning times when their parents and others told them not to do something simply because they said so.
- a. How has your attitude about times like this changed since you've become an adult?
 - b. "I said so, end of discussion!"
 - i. How well do your children respond to this statement?
 - ii. How do you respond when you hear the Lord say, "Because I said so, end of discussion"?
9. Pastor Gary spoke about Satan's desire to distort and invert God's view of the order of leadership in a family, and how the root of feminism showed itself.
- a. Read and spend time talking about Pastor Gary's statement: It's as if Satan is saying, "If I can invert God's authority in the family, if I can break the marriage order, if I can get men to be silent, passive cowards and cause them to sit idly by while chaos and confusion consumes and destroys their own families, and if I can get women to assume the man's role and step up to fill the gap, then I've succeeded!"
 - b. Spend time talking about the ways our culture embraces the inverted order of family leadership.

10. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: be ready to stand firm when the enemy subtly goes about the process of distorting God's Word in order to deceive, which moves them toward disobedience; to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to resist the temptation sin by following the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; see that God loves them and wants them to be in right relationship with him, and the only way to do that is to confess sin and allow him to forgive and restore.

- Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).