

The Product of the Temptation (v.7)

What are the results of the temptation?

Sin Resulting from D i s o b e d i e n c e

Eve takes and eats. She disobeys God by believing Satan's lies and desiring what is forbidden. Deceived, she disobeys.

Adam takes and eats. It is clear to me that in the words, "gives to Adam who was with her," that he is standing there watching this happen. He is with her. He is not deceived. He chooses Eve over God. He chooses to disobey. This single act of disobedience takes the whole human race down with him.

Shame Resulting from G u i l t

They are aware of their sin. Satan said their eyes would be opened. They are opened, but not to what they expected. The poison of sin in their souls now changes how they see what they see.

They are ashamed of their sin. Their knowledge now of evil is the root, the cause of the emotion called shame. Their holy simplicity is now corrupted by guilty shame.

This knowledge of good and evil they now know is not Godlike. Their experience has not made them into gods. It has exposed them as visible and vulnerable and needing to be covered because of sin and guilt.

The Confrontation of Sin (v.8-13)

I cannot help but think that verse 8 is immediately after verses 6-7. Here they are, startled in the first moments of their sin and shame, by the sound of the Lord God in His presence moving in the Garden.

Engages through Relationship (v.8)

Live in the context of fellowship and relationship.

God engages Adam and Eve in a relationship with them. He comes to where they are to meet with them and fellowship with them. He confronts them out of a context of his communion with them. This encourages us as we want to counsel others to do so with a love, know speak, and do engagement. Build relationship, understand issues, represent God's agenda for change and give practical steps of action.

God initiates an active pursuit of the sinner.

God is the seeker and man is runner. God knows that Adam and Eve have sinned. He is not coming into the Garden just to have a time of fellowship. He is coming in the time of fellowship to confront them with their sin. He is seeking



them. They are hiding from God. This is ever the way it is – no one seeks after God first; He is always first in seeking man.

Sin destroys the relationship breaking fellowship through fear and folly.

The hiding and running from the Presence of God is a graphic picture of a broken relationship. How sin causes us to cower in fear. When they ought to be moving toward God in loving delight, they are running and hiding in shame.

Sin destroys ones ability to see clearly, contrary to what was promised in the temptation.

Here is the insanity and irrationally, the madness sin causes. How is Adam going to hide from omniscience? Where will Adam run from omnipresence? The most blinding affect of sin is that we are blind to it.

Exposes through Q u e s t i o n s (v.9-13)

God exposes Adam and Eve through questions. God is not asking in order to learn what He does not know. He is asking penetrating questions in order to give Adam self-knowledge. The soul is poised to answer questions even if the answer is not spoken out loud. God causes Adam and Eve to face their own sin by exposing it through carefully crafted questions aimed to expose the heart.

Notice the categories of questions:

Questions around b r o k e n r e l a t i o n s h i p s (v.9-10)

These are questions that ask the “Where are you” around life and life’s relationships. They are designed to show how sin alienates and turns friends into enemies, love into fear, walking with one another into running and hiding from one another.

Questions examining e v i d e n c e s o f g u i l t (v.11a)

These are questions which probe how guilt is working itself out. They are designed to expose the foolish words of counsel, the fake pleasures and false promises. It exposes our exposure.

Questions about the f a c t s o f s i n (v.11b-12)

These are questions that gather data about what one did or how one responded. It is meant to get the story straight. They are direct, centering on the precepts. Did you do? Did you say? What happened? It makes the response of Adam even more terrible that in the face of the great wonderful Counselor he attempts to deflect the questions and shift blame.



Questions requiring s e l f - a c c u s a t i o n (v.13).

These are questions which draw out admission of sin. They are designed to expose how one is culpable and how one has contributed. They help us see us as being responsible, responsible for our own sin and responsible for being the means to tempt, provoke, contribute, be the occasion of someone else's sin.

For all of us as brothers and sisters, or in our roles as spouses or parents, or in our spheres of relationships in church, home, community or work, here is how we help people change. Our counsel uses God's kind of questions to help people see. And often they will not. Even here, we find Adam and Eve not repenting when counseled by God Himself.

Explains through Illustrative Responses

Look at how Moses relates the universal sinful responses to sin and guilt.

- ◇ Denial – We will cover the effects of our sin.

How do we tend to cover our sins? Draw out a list...

- ◇ Escape/Avoid – We will hide from our accusers.

How do we tend to avoid or escape our sin? Draw out a list...

- ◇ Blame-shift – We will place blame on others.

How do we tend to blame shift? On whom? On what?

This how we tend to respond to having sinned ourselves. We try to cover our sin, to hide from counsel, to shift blame. We refuse the Word of God and the Spirit of God and the people of God. How we need to be humble and receive the grace of God to grant repentance so that we will not respond like Adam and Eve. (Consider 2 Timothy 2:24-26).



Lessons for Learning

Give these as challenges and launch pad for discussion.

PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE WORD OF GOD.

Read it carefully. Learn it well. Handle it accurately. Obey it completely. Satan's surrogates will question its accuracy and authority. You must not add to it or take away from it. You must be clear from it who God is and what He promises and provides.

REJECT ALL FORMS OF FALSE COUNSEL.

Eve listened to the quiet, compelling questions and denials of the serpent. Adam listened and obeyed the tempting voice and example of Eve. Eve needed to hold the line and not listen to Satan. Adam needed to hold the line and not listen to Eve. We all need to hold the line of the Scriptures and not listen to false counsel of the world.

WATCH OVER YOUR HEART WITH DILIGENCE.

Out of your heart, you act. Out of what you believe and what you want, arise all affections, emotions, choices and actions. Over the patterns of sin in your life, ask the "what was I thinking" questions. What do you believe to be true? What do you want? What appeals to you and why? What pleasures and promises does sin hold out to you that your heart moves toward?

RESPOND IN HUMBLE REPENTANCE WHEN CONFRONTED WITH GODLY COUNSEL.

Do not hide your sin, run from counsel or shift blame. We are a culture of skilled blame-shifters. While our families, our childhood, our bodies, our brains, our spouses, our children, our situations, our jobs even our churches may contribute, tempt, test, provoke, be the occasion or the context for sin, they never ever cause sin. Be humble and receive grace to change and grow.

OWN THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN.

When you have dealt with sin and repented of sin, be willing to live with its consequences. Rejecting the results of sin often is a sign that there has been worldly sorrow, not godly repentance.

BANK YOUR HOPE ON THE REDEEMER OF OUR SOULS.

In the darkness and difficulty of sin, turn to Christ. Turn to Him for salvation. Turn to Him for transformation. You are saved and transformed by a Person, by the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the fulfillment of the promises and prophecies begun in Genesis 3. He is all you need. Trust in Him, O sinners and saints today.

Questions for Discussion

What 2 functions of the heart are attacked?

Beliefs and wants

What is the progression in the temptation?

Point out how the temptation is presented in a chiasmic structure.

Satan Question -> challenges the Word

Eve Misuses/Misquotes -> changes God

Satan Denies -> Charges God

What is at the center of the attack? Why?

God's Word. Because we are to think, want, act and feel with and in accordance with God's Word. It is to be what organizes and orients our hearts.

In what way is God changed? How do we also do that?

Made God less gracious, more restrictive, less serious about judgment.

Temptations are always presented aimed at what? Through what?

Aimed at the heart through the body.

See if there is disagreement. Some may have been taught that Satan can put thoughts in our minds, etc.

How does your heart know what it believes and wants?

Through words. *Initiate discussion on the flow of words in the heart that carry our beliefs and wants.*

Why do you want what you do?

Because you believe what you do. *If needed, discuss how beliefs are foundations to wants, cause wants, shape wants, even the natural desires of the body.*

According to Genesis 3, what are the results of sin?

Shame resulting from guilt; punishment by God; initial acts of grace by God

What does God do to confront and expose their sin?

He asks them questions,

How can we help see our hearts through questions?

Discuss the power of skillful questions to expose what is wanted and believed.

How do we tend to respond to sin?

Deny, escape, blame-shift