

The Garden Event

Remember:

Adam and Eve were living in the garden which God had planted in Eden, thus the Garden of Eden. During all their time in the Garden of Eden there was only one boundary, one rule that they were not to break:

¹⁶ The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." (Genesis 2: 16-17)

Think about the difference between their experience and ours. We find it a necessity to create rules, boundaries and limitations for ourselves, our children, each other, and even for nations on a global basis. It may be impossible to name all the boundaries, rules, laws, and limitations that exist in our lives.

Adam and Eve had just one rule as stated above. Why? Because that's all they needed, one simple rule. Break that one rule and they would die immediately. That is a pretty clear and simple rule.

Here we need to reconsider something that is completely out of the context of our natural experience. Recall, at this time in the life of Adam and Eve, and in fact within the entire world no Sin existed.

This means at least two things: the power of Sin did not have control of creation, and no part of creation was doing anything wrong. No sins were being committed. It also meant, as stated earlier, that Unity with God and one another was the basis of Adam and Eve's "self-perception" and any "other" perception or perspective of theirs. In fact, neither separation from God, one another, or creation, nor separation thinking was an issue that existed at all.

The life and experience of Adam and Eve was in perfect harmony with God. What they wanted to do, and what they thought about doing was always in perfect alignment with what God wanted done.

There was no misalignment within the relationship between the Creator and the created. Thus, no separation between the will of God and the individual wills of Adam or Eve. This means that Adam and Eve never had to figure out what the will of God was for them, or anything else that they might know about. Knowing God's will was automatic; as natural as breathing.

We assume that one person is totally different from another person as individual beings, so separation is a given. Only God clearly demonstrates that three individual persons can constitute one Being; God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Diversity within existence does not have to mean separation.

After their oneness is lost it isn't until Jesus is born into this world from a virgin, and begins His Messianic ministry that we see another complete example of such oneness. Jesus tell us what this kind of relationship is and how it works.

“I and the Father are one.” (John 10:30)

“Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and *the Father* will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.’”
(John 5:19-20)

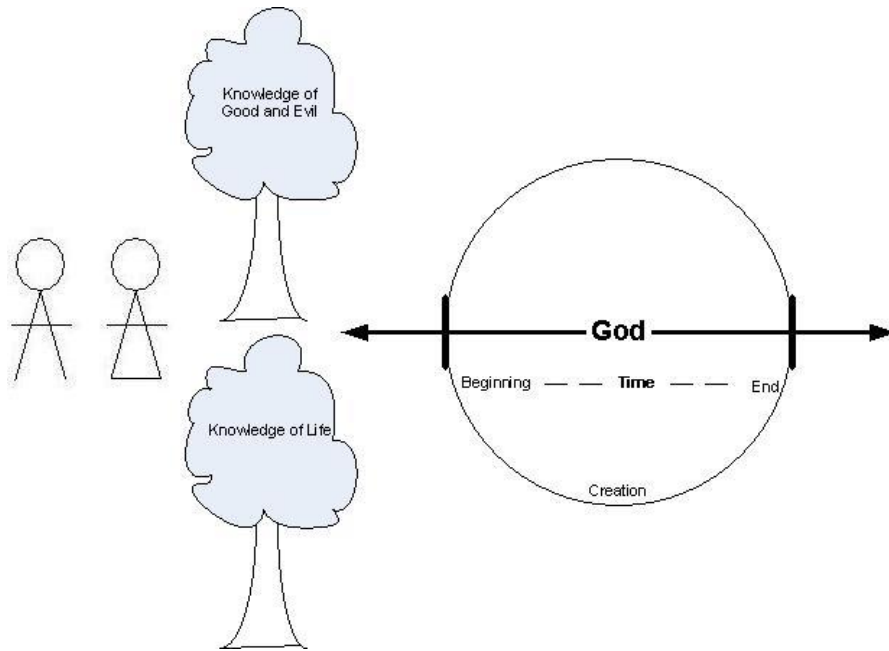
This absence of separation in Adam and Eve's thinking, their identity, their concept of self is important to understand and remember. Adam knew that he was different from God, different from Eve, and that they were different from the birds, animals, trees, rocks, rivers, and the rest of creation. Difference, however, was not the point; God's Unity was their reality, and their starting point for everything.

Diversity was not the foundation for understanding their unity. Instead their Unity with God and all of creation was the foundation of understanding and enjoying diversity.

A Picture In Time

Then there are the two trees. It is interesting to me that God not only created the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but He also created the tree of life (Genesis 2:9). It's not known to me why there was a tree of life, but there is no indication in Genesis that Adam or Eve ever thought about eating of its fruit.

Why not? The Bible does not say. Perhaps it is because they had no need for anything outside of their relationship with God to sustain their sense of fullness of life. Now, let's pause for a moment and look at what we have to consider. They say that a picture is worth a thousand words so we'll try that out.



We see the eternal God and His creation includes the creation of time, which also represents a specific beginning and end of creation. Adam and Eve, and the two special trees are in the garden: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and the tree of life. The context is now set for the garden event.

“1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Indeed, has God said, “You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?”’ 2 The woman said to the serpent, ‘From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.”’ 4 The serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely will not die! 5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ 6 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 desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.” (Genesis 3:1-7)

This is a power packed passage, and in more ways than one. We have the forces of evil, in my opinion the power of Sin itself, Satan, seeking to gain control of all that God has created. By the sins of Adam and Eve, Satan could make Death pervasive within God’s creation. Total separation from God by people taking action against God. Death bringing its ultimate end, and all of creation being impacted as a result.

Before we take a closer look at what is said between the serpent and Eve I’d like to share some thoughts. They are speculative in nature, but I’d like to share them anyway. What strikes me is this is the first time that anything like this has happened in the history of creation. Clearly Eve is being tempted and she had never experienced anything like this before.

It is impossible for us to imagine what it would be like to be sinless, in total harmony with God and in His Unity with all things. Then while never having seen or heard about such an event as this temptation, “bam” suddenly it happens to Eve. They would never have thought of this on their own. It had to come from a different source entirely. Satan was that source, speaking through the serpent.

This is the first recorded time Eve is confronted with a situation that’s confusing to her. She could have said to the serpent, “You need to talk to God about that because He is the One that created everything and made the rule.” She could have said many other things to acknowledge God’s authority. Instead she sets about correcting the serpent, and that in-and-of-itself is probably an important step in the wrong direction.

Her response is not in agreement with what is recorded in Genesis chapter two. There God set the “rule” in place while talking to Adam before Eve was created from Adam.

“16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.’” (Genesis 2: 16-17)

“2 The woman said to the serpent, ‘From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.”’” (Genesis 3:2-3)

God said do not eat of the fruit or you will die that day. Eve said do not eat or touch the fruit or you will die. These inconsistencies are interesting to me.

This may be an indication of the confusing and conflicting feelings, and thoughts that were arising within Eve beyond the obvious spoken words recorded in this text. Temptation is rarely as simple as a spoken challenge whether a thought in our mind, or from the mouth of one who tempts us. There’s always the complexity of feeling and thought that accompanies a temptation.

Satan is fully capable of placing a temptation before us, and then suggesting thoughts that support the temptation. If we mentally or emotionally “own” those suggestions, by assuming they come from us, then they become something that we must now deal with directly.

By accepting Satan’s suggestions, they become ours even though we were not the origin of the thoughts. At that point we are stuck with the supportive thoughts and feelings that follow, and this makes resisting the temptation that much more difficult. We will have chosen to make the responsibility of resisting temptation ours, and ours alone. By doing so we have excluded God and His best for us.

During this interaction, Eve may not only be struggling with the obvious challenge, but also an unseen challenge. Perhaps her mind expanded these suggested thoughts with something like “why would God keep us from that fruit?” ... “Is it really so bad that even to touch it will kill us?”.

We may never know, but her misquote of God’s constraint seems to indicate that much is already happening in this exchange of words. Possibly, Eve has already taken a first step onto a very slippery slope.

This is not an effort to make excuses for Eve, but it is clear to me that anyone using this event to support the concepts of women being the “weaker sex” is gravely mistaken. To assume that Adam would not have made the same mistake is an idea wrapped up in someone’s ego with little substance for support.

Please note that she gave the fruit to “her husband with her, and he ate.” Adam was with her and did nothing as he witnessed this event except to eat the fruit as well. Actually, for me this oppressive idea has its origin in Sin as we’ll see later. We have most of the rest of the Bible with men making one mistake after another that proves the inadequacies of the male gender.

Adam does not get a pass on this because he simply accepted the fruit from Eve without any resistance. His sin was just as great as Eve’s. Trying to say one gender is more guilty than the other seems driven by personal agendas, and not God’s Truth. OK, that’s enough speculation.

Into the Rabbit Hole We Go

If the serpent overstating the rule was meant to set Eve up for a fall, the next statement is the launching point for the fall of all creation:

“The serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’” (Genesis 3:4-5)

Let’s unpack this carefully, because within these two statements is the foundation for every sin that has been committed from that time until today, and forward to the Day of Judgment.

“You surely will not die!”, is a direct affront to God’s promise that they would die immediately upon eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We can simply see this as an outright lie and move on, or more carefully consider these words and discover additional significant impacts.

Satan, through the serpent, is offering another perspective concerning the concept of Life by suggesting a different perspective on Death. This suggestion is, in fact, a lie. However, if we accept it then Adam and Eve’s Death in the garden can be rationally denied by them and us. With a different perspective this rationalization becomes possible, even when they immediately died just as God said they would.

By His acts of creation God. proved Himself to be the source of Life, not just the source of the existence of that which is alive. God is Life. To be in a relationship of oneness with Him is to Live.

Since God is eternal, Life is eternal. For all of mankind, indeed all of creation, to be separated from God is to be separated from Life. So, to be separated from God is Death. That is the truth according to God’s perspective.

According to the serpent, thus according to Satan, death is the end of our physical existence on the earth. That means life is to be experienced on a different level than through being Alive within God’s

Unity. Here we see a new perspective for Eve's consideration. Perhaps, something like, "While God may say that we are going to die when we eat that fruit, this Serpent is proposing that we will not die."

This is a whole new way of thinking about life and death according to Satan. He proposes that Adam and Eve can choose to live life from his perspective, and if they accept this new perspective then they will not die. If this sounds like double talk that's because it is, but the amazing thing is that people have been believing it, and accepting it as fact ever since this event in the Garden.

By accepting this perspective and rejecting God, Who is Truth, we in essence redefine what life is and make its meaning fit our desires. This makes death the inability to continue to function physically, rather than separation from God.

So, by adopting Satan's proposed perspective death becomes the end of our existence on earth. We think we're in control by believing this different definition, but instead Satan is, and we are not. Satan's influence is pervasive in this world.

What happens is we end up living a lie, and avoiding or rejecting God Who is the Life we long for, and need. We can't get what fulfills us from the world. Only God is Life.

With the next sentence we will take one phrase at a time. "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened,..." We need to consider this piece by piece.

"For God knows..." When we couple this with the preceding sentence it essentially says that God has known something that He has been keeping from Eve and Adam. This raises suspicion about God's intent. Further, the serpent proposes this hidden piece of information will show them that they will not die when they eat the fruit.

In fact, something good will happen when they disobey God. They will come into a fuller realization of life than ever experienced before, and see things as they have never seen them before; "...your eyes will be opened."

In essence, this meant Eve couldn't trust God. Also, that there was more to life than what they could know in their current state, and it can be theirs for the taking. Eve only had to accept this new way of looking at things as the truth.

Satan likes to propose a thought that makes us question God. Have any of us ever been suspicious of God's real intentions? Have we thought He was keeping something from us? These represent some of the first steps toward us committing sins. Why? Because they serve to justify us launching out on our own to discover what is best for us. Especially since our trust in God has weakened, or been lost entirely.

Let's skip to the last phrase in this sentence, "...knowing good and evil". Because when we remove the commas, and the phrase that they set apart, it flows like this, "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened...knowing good and evil."

We'll come back to the result of having our eyes opened and knowing good and evil in a moment. Here, as amazing as it may seem, the serpent is saying that knowing "evil" is as beneficial as knowing "good". Thus, evil is something to be desired. Just think about that for a moment.

The invitation to know good and evil clearly says that it is not enough for us to know "good". When God created the world what did He say about His creation? "God saw that the light was good." Repeatedly, in Genesis chapter one we see that what God created was Good: verse ten, twelve, eighteen, twenty-one, twenty-five, and then in verse thirty-one, "And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good."

According to Satan, God's Good is never enough. Satan wanted Eve to believe that it is equally important, and as beneficial to know evil as it is to know good. In essence, knowing evil is, at the least, equally important as knowing God's Good.

Satan is suggesting that what we will gain is more important than God Himself. How can that be said? Because in order to know evil Eve had to disobey God, thus making her desire to know evil more important than God.

How does that work? Because God's Word is Truth, meaning God is Truth. When God speaks it is by the Word. The second Person of the Trinity; God. A decision by us to ignore God's Word is a decision to place ourselves above God Whose Word is the Truth.

The tough part about understanding this for us is the fact that we ignore God-the-Word on a regular basis. My understanding of this has greatly increased my awareness of my sins. This would be a tragic result if it were not for the total Freedom from Sin and sins given to me by God through Christ.

Now for the result of knowing good and evil, "...and you will be like God,...". In essence, we can take God's place in our life. We can have authority over creation and do what we think is best.

Through this self-assumed role it is now our place to be the boss, the one in control, the one with all authority. This is the pinnacle of the temptation and the root of all sinful acts in the world today.

Our perspective becomes Satan's perspective. We can be the one with authority, power and control. We can take God's place and make it ours.

Let's take a quick look at an interesting passage from Isaiah:

"How you have fallen from heaven,
O star of the morning, son of the dawn!
You have been cut down to the earth,
You who have weakened the nations!

13 “But you said in your heart,
 ‘I will ascend to heaven;
 I will raise my throne above the stars of God,
 And I will sit on the mount of assembly
 In the recesses of the north.
 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
 I will make myself like the Most High.’
 15 Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol,
 To the recesses of the pit.”
 (Isaiah 14:12-15)

This passage is often associated with the fall of Satan from a position as the angel of light. From a high position in heaven he ends up in the depths of “the pit”. It is, however, rather controversial for some people.

If there is any question about this passage why bring it up? Because my point does not depend upon the accuracy of either view concerning this passage, it is a more fundamental point.

A characteristic that is attributed to Satan, or those in the world who are seen as a type of satanic individual, is to exalt one’s self into an ultimate position of authority. In other words, taking God’s rightful place within ourselves, in the world, or within a set of circumstances.

The end result of trying to take this position and rejecting Jesus is to be cast down to the “recesses of the pit”; separation from God: eternal Death. From the beginning to the end of the Bible we will always find this issue of authority, or the taking of God’s rightful place, at the core of Sin itself and all sinful acts.

Key Elements of the Temptation

Here’s my perspective on the essence of the temptation:

- We can’t trust God
 - God is not Life, there is another way to understand life that is better
 - He has kept things from us, thus making us less than what we could be
 - Question God’s Word
 - Trust another source, or sources of knowledge more than we trust God
- Evil is something to be desired
 - Knowing evil is good and thus knowledge becomes power
 - We are not complete without knowing evil
 - Knowing evil is as important or more important than knowing God
 - Evil, thus Satan, and the power of Sin have something better for us than what God has given to us, or might give to us
- We can take God’s place; becoming like God
 - It is our right to choose to be the ruler of our own life
 - We can take a place of authority equal or superior to that of God
 - Making decisions for ourselves without God is our right and is what’s best for us
 - We don’t need God

Moving On

Now for the next level of this deception: “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 desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.” (Genesis 3:6)

This passage provides the evidence that Eve and Adam took the bait, hook, line and sinker. The result of accepting Satan’s perspective on death and life was they had to ignore what God said would happen if they ate the fruit. It would result in their Death immediately. Instead of obeying God they accepted Satan’s perspective as being good. Even better than God’s perspective, anything God had said to them, or provided for them.

This in turn, resulted in them attempting to take authority over their own lives, and acting accordingly. They now decided what was good for themselves instead of obeying God Who had defined what constitutes Good. Choosing to consider Satan’s ideas, Eve’s perspective had already begun to change.

As Eve looked at the fruit, she accepted as truth, or trusted in the idea that it was good. The fact that this was an act of rebellion is not considered. Instead she assumes the right to disobey God, thus placing herself above God, and follows a simple process of rationally considering the value of the fruit itself.

It’s interesting to note how far Eve had already gone in accepting Satan’s perspective before she ate of the forbidden fruit. She accepted this new way of looking at the fruit so much that she was willing to engage in thinking about what it meant for her. Thus she began justifying the idea of eating the fruit. It also seems her consideration of these things had begun to impact her perspectives.

Take a moment to consider how Satan tempts us. We become aware of, or initiate a thought about doing something. Along with that we might recognize doing so would be wrong. Then quickly comes the thoughts of what we think will be gained by such actions. The justification of why we should do what we want is formed in our mind. This changes our perspective and encourages us to do what we want, rather than what we know is right. Sound familiar at all? Interestingly this all can happen at sub-second speed.

This ever happen to any of us? If so, raise a hand in the air. Can everyone see both of hands are up high?

In Eve’s case she now considered why the fruit was “good”. She “saw” that it was good for “food”, a “delight to the eyes”, and “desirable to make one wise”. To me this means that she saw that it was good for the body (food), emotions (desirable to the eyes), and mind (desirable to make one wise).

Her justification was sufficient for Eve to follow up her thoughts by acting on her new-found perspective. She took the fruit and ate it. We might conclude that being completely convinced of the benefits of this action she shared it with Adam. He jumped right on it and ate the fruit as well. (*)

So, the lasting result of Eve and Adam accepting the essence of the temptation is that we all live life from their accepted perspective. From then on “life” is that which can be experienced primarily from the physical, emotional, and mental elements of our existence.

While there might be some unspoken place for the spiritual aspect of their existence, clearly these three domains are the foundation of their existence, and thus our life perspectives. They intended to go forward from there with their self-appointed position of ruler of their own domain. It looked like it would be great. The catch was God had said they would Die, immediately.

Previously it was suggested that God gave Adam and Eve bodies so they could be one with, and enjoy God’s creation more fully through their Unity with Him and one another. In that design God is Life and all understanding of that Life. Through Unity with Him the diversity of creation is discovered and experienced as God intended.

Now we see that focus change. What can be experienced through the body, emotions, and mind becomes the essence of understanding and experiencing “life”. Essentially, what we experience under our control, becomes our life, which of course takes place in a world we can’t control.

The temptation leads Eve to think she can use this capacity she now has to enjoy the world around her differently, to be the new focal point of life itself. The body, emotions, and mind under her authority become the means to explore “life”. She has accepted the perspective that this will help her in discovering what she determines to be good or evil. It seems to mean she can freely do whatever she wants.

Take note that this thinking separates the concept of life from God the Life-Giver, and focuses on “self” as the source of life. Again, the temptation is that we take God’s rightful place and in essence we become a god unto ourselves.

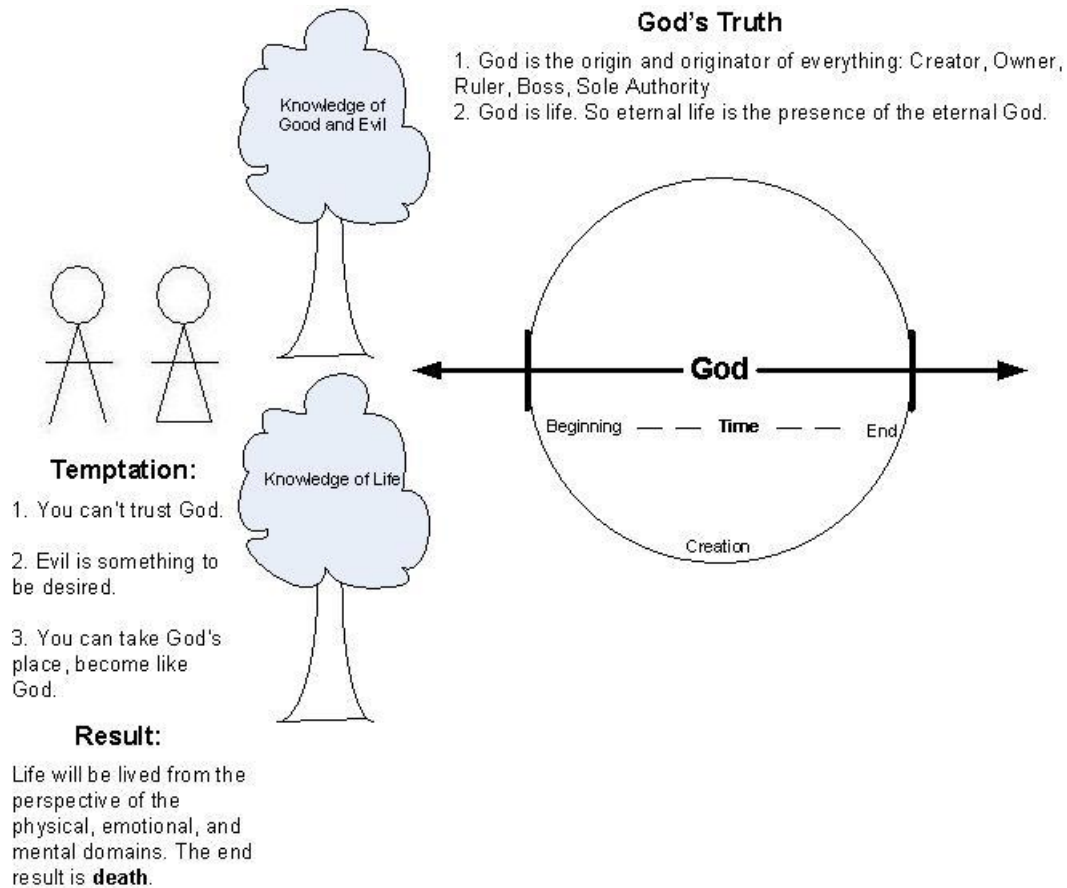
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* There are some who might argue that having been overtaken by sin, Eve was compelled to convince Adam to eat the fruit as well. They may go on to assign a conniving and treacherous nature to the characteristics of all women. So, they might disagree with what’s been written here. My perspective is that such thoughts cannot be adequately supported, and deserve no further consideration. Why, because they are wrong? While they seem inaccurate to me there is a greater reason for rejecting these ideas that diminish the character of women en mass. It is not our place to judge Eve, or anyone else. To take an idea that requires the judgement of Eve, and apply it as a judgement of all women is, for me, completely wrong and goes against the Truth God has given us. Someone might argue that my statements here seem to ascribe a specific motivation for Eve’s actions. That is something we agree on. That’s why the word “might” is used. There is no absolute statement intended. What Eve and Adam did is beyond our idea of “bad” because we don’t have any experience with perfection equal to theirs. It doesn’t seem to me there is any need to try and make it worse. It seems wrong to draw conclusions about the nature of either gender by what Genesis chapter 3 records. Just my thoughts shared here in case someone gets hung up on what is written. At least they’ll know my perspective.

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Putting Some Pieces Together

Let’s take a moment and get the diagram caught up with all these points to ponder:



What is missing within the temptation? Spirit is missing; that part of our eternal-being that is most designed to be in communion with God. For Adam and Eve to be in Unity with God was to be Alive. It is the spirit-based perspective that God uses to consider Life and the experiences of Life, even as it was His Spirit that moved over the surface of the deep during creation.

In this new idea of life being “seen” by Eve for the first time, she will attempt to meet the need of her eternal-spiritual-being for Life, by filling it with the results of how she lives her life of existence on the Earth. Now the meaning of her existence on this earth will be found within the physical, emotional, and mental domains, instead of being filled with God Who is Life.

Eve, and a bit later Adam, would now seek spiritual satisfaction based upon what they could achieve within the physical, emotional, and mental domains of their lives. This would be the case even if what they seek to achieve is a relationship with God. As this became their reality, it also became humankind’s.

While we may encircle ourselves with all types of spiritual trappings, rituals, discipline and good works that others will praise and lift-up as holy, we will not find satisfaction. In essence we will fall far short of what God requires because we have kept ourselves in His seat of authority. What God requires is that we accept Him for Who His is, God, the great I AM, the One and only One Who has the right to have absolute authority over all things. In particularly, over each of us.

The final indication that Eve fully accepted this new perspective on life and the resulting lifestyle is that “she took from its fruit, and ate; and she gave to her husband with her, and he ate.” More than a hand shake, or a signed contract, the deal was done; the Death warrant was signed, sealed and delivered.

Looking for Meaning

From that point on all of humanity, even more than that, all of creation would approach life from this new perspective first. From that point on, Death (separation from God) was the common reality shared by all of creation no matter how much any part of it seemed to be “alive” from a physical perspective.

Sin now reigned in the world because the very nature of creation changed, from that which worships the Creator first, by virtue of being in a Unified relationship with God, to that which worships the creature more than the Creator. From that point forward separation became the beginning point for understanding life, self, others, and all of creation.

Sin became the foundation of our understanding. Unity was broken, the power of Sin subjugated all of creation. Death instantly spread as a global plague, and the mind of mankind was altered to accept alienation from God as the norm, because the rule of “self” was the new god from the time of our birth.

God said that if they ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they will Die. So what happened?

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.” (Genesis 3:7)

OK, what died? They ate of the fruit, and in verse seven we see that they are still walking around so their body didn’t die. Right?

They “knew” that they were naked and covered themselves, so their emotions were working because they felt shame. Their brains were working because they made themselves loin coverings. They’re walking, feeling, and thinking so what died?

Our usual response is they died spiritually. We are now confronted with the paradox of a walking Dead person.

That’s right, even those who might run fast, think brilliantly, manage their emotions with stellar control were, and continue to be Dead people. We are owned by Death at the time of our birth. It is a state-of-being. The effects of the power of Sin are in control, we are separated from God, and we are Dead.

Why? Because God is Life and to be separated from Him is Death. This became the case at that time for Adam and Eve. The state of their existence, or state of their eternal-being became Death. This was, and is the case for every person born after this event. We might think of it as something all of humankind inherits.

As mentioned earlier we are body, mind, emotions, will, and an eternally-being united into a whole person. Each part is affected by the others. There is no such thing as spiritual death from God's perspective. We are Dead, or filled with God-Life, thus Alive, no matter our state of physical existence.

Death does not mean that we cease to exist. Everyone will exist eternally. The question is whether we will exist within Life, or Death. We can be Alive in a relationship with God, by being in Unity with God Who is Life eternal. Otherwise we will exist in Death. We will be separate from God with no relationship with Him, which is the essence of Death; eternal Death. That is the eternal Truth.

When God, the source of true Life, exists within our spirit-beings He can be the source of the meaning of life in the physical, emotional, and mental domains of our existence.

If we are Dead, separated from God, then the state-of-being Dead dominates our existence at all levels. This is the case regardless of our ability to act, feel, and think because Death owns us, and by choice we are the source of our thoughts and actions instead of God.

We will never have enough, experience enough, feel enough, or know enough to satisfy ourselves or the human race. Yet we will continue to seek to acquire the "something" that is missing within us; true Life – God Who is Life.

Our endeavors will always result in failure before God because our efforts have at their core the essence of Sin. That is "self" being in control, striving to get enough through the physical, emotional, and mental domains to justify our self-assumed right to be the one in authority.

Further we will seek to have authority over any and all of creation we believe is necessary in our attempt to satisfy our desire to rule and reign in God's place. Separation justifies the use, abuse, and destruction of God's creation; including the people whom we should love.

As long as Adam and Eve were in relationship with God then the Life that God is (God-Life) was within them, and that Spirit-Life sustained the physical, emotional, and mental domains of their existence on earth in perfect Unity with God. When they rejected God, and assumed His rightful position of authority over their existence and creation they Died because of two things:

1. They could not be the source of Life for themselves or anything else. When God reigned over creation He sustained Life through Unity because He is Life. When Adam and Eve sought to take His place what was left in place of God-Life was a big dark hole; nothing; Sin and Death, the absence of Life, and their efforts to fill that void with self-driven desires.
2. When they ate of the fruit they took on a new nature. The nature of the power of Sin and its characteristics. Sin entered the domain of humanity and all of creation. God will not abide in unity with Sin. When Adam and Eve took on the nature of Sin their relationship with God was broken; they were separated from God. Thus, they were separated from true Life, God-Life. Separation from Life is Death. They were also separated from one another and all of creation.

Again, even though they could walk, feel emotions, think and talk they were Dead.

Consider this, how long does our physical existence on this earth last? Even if it was several hundred years how does that compare to eternity? It wouldn't even be a nanosecond diminished to the one trillionth degree of eternity. So which is greater, our physical existence or our eternal existence? I'm voting for the eternal thing. How about you?

God deals in eternity, yet exists in any moment. His existence is eternal, thus His Life is eternal. To be in relationship with Him is to be Alive, to be separated from Him is to be Dead even though we still exist on the earth.

Yes, we are not just a physical, emotional, and mental being. We are also an eternal-spiritual-being, or spirit-person, if some prefer, so we will exist forever. Even though our physical body may cease to exist we will continue to exist beyond the domain of the physical. We are eternal-beings. Whether we exist within Life or exist within Death is determined by our relationship with God, and that alone.

Please realize, we have to decide how we are going to look at life. Are we going to accept God's perspective on Life, or will we choose Satan's perspective? It really is that simple. God says that He is Life. Satan says that we can live apart from God by accepting Satan's idea of life.

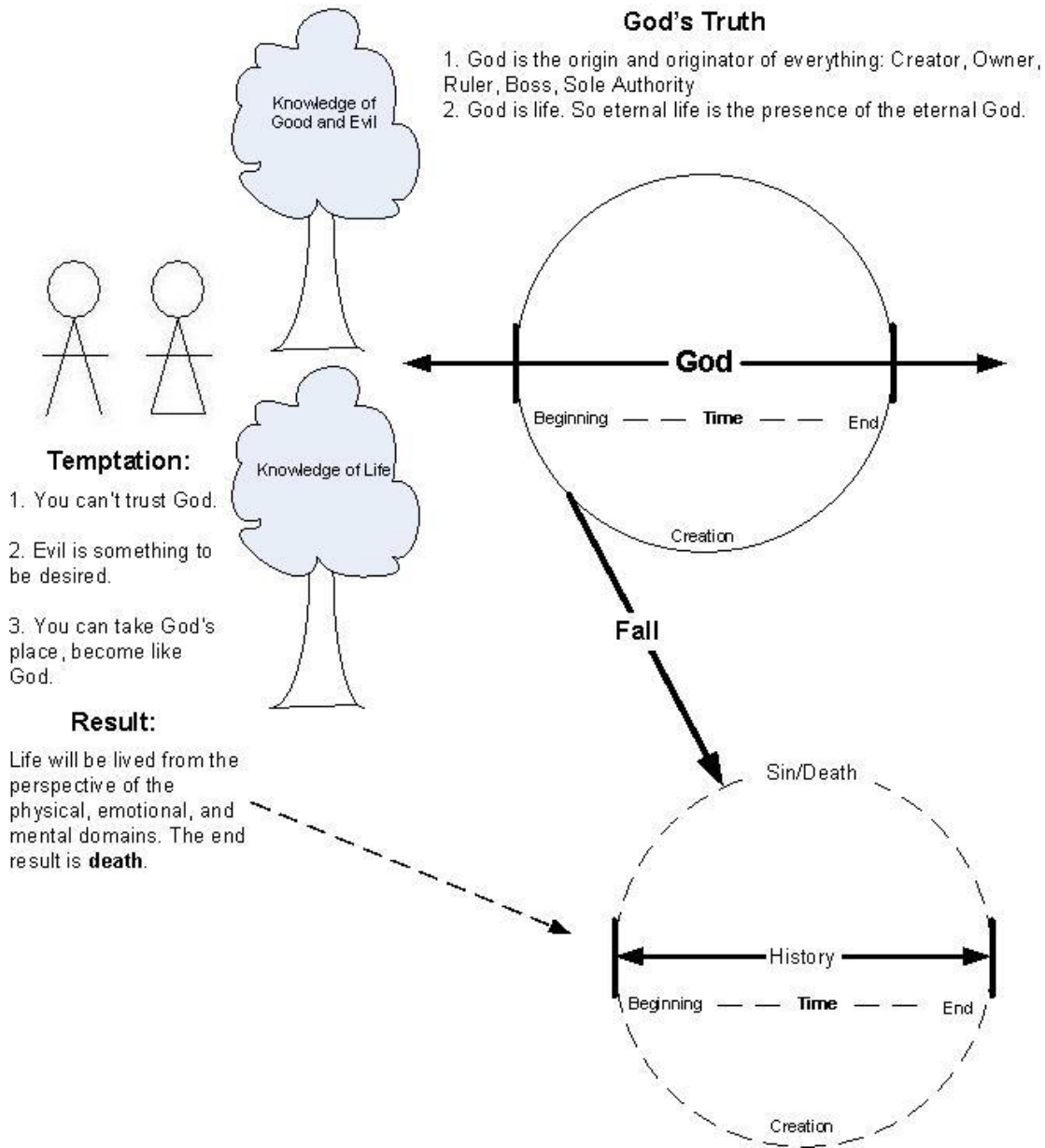
God says that He is Ruler over all. Satan says that we can rule in place of God. In fact we can be like a god within the world to others; the one who rules.

God says that Life is first spiritual, which permeates the physical, emotional, and mental domains. Satan says that life is first physical, emotional, and mental and our experiences in those domains will fill the need for our spiritual existence. Satan's perspective is what we call normal in the world in which we live.

We may want to avoid this decision but we cannot. Either we have a relationship with God or we do not. Either we have surrendered our life to God's rule and authority, or we continue to hold onto a lie that says we can rule our own life. Either we are Alive, filled with God-Life, or we are a walking Dead person dominated by the power of Sin. This death of creation is known as the "fall" of creation.

My apologies for so much repetition about Life and Death. The reason is my concern that while we logically may have "got it" the first time, if we haven't been thinking this way before nothing will have changed by reading this chapter. This issue is critical to understanding the rest of the Holy Scriptures.

So, another way of saying this is that the Reality that God created was replaced with another form of reality which was based on the perspectives of Sin. Thus in the diagram below we see a kind of second world, or second reality. This represents the alternative perspective of life that was accepted by Eve and Adam when they ate the forbidden fruit.



God the creator views the world one way. The power of Sin causes all humanity to view the world from another perspective. This is inherent within all people. It's the Sin nature.

We are held in the bondage of Sin; a reality that is passed on from parents to their children physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually as a part of the co-creative and living processes. We are destined by Sin to accept Satan's lie as the truth. This becomes the reality of our existence. Within this perspective who we are is linked with what happens to us and what we do, instead of within the Unity of God Who created Life; He Who is Life.

The need for us to be in control is as sure as our birth into this world. We view the world from our perspective of self-needs, and as we grow our need to gain control grows as well. We may rebel against

any authority that seeks to control us as we struggle with this pervasive desire that grips every part of our being. Our view of the world is dominated by it. Our understanding of life in and around us is shaped by it, and our actions are dictated by the conclusions and decisions that we make based on it.

Circumstances within life that counter our desires cause tension and frustration because many of those circumstances are outside of our control. We often think if we controlled them, then the circumstances would of course be different. Instead of being frustrating, things would be as we desire them to be and all would be good.

We discover, however, that having that kind of control is impossible. So, frustration is a part of our existence on this earth. If our frustration continues to grow then anger rises up, and we strike outward or inward in an attempt to control the circumstances, or release the overpowering emotions that grip us.

This seldom solves our problem, and emptiness, or a sense of incompleteness remains. We often seek to fill that resulting need by some physical, emotional or mental experience. This can evolve into forms of behavior that are risky to our health or relationships, which are too numerous to try to list.

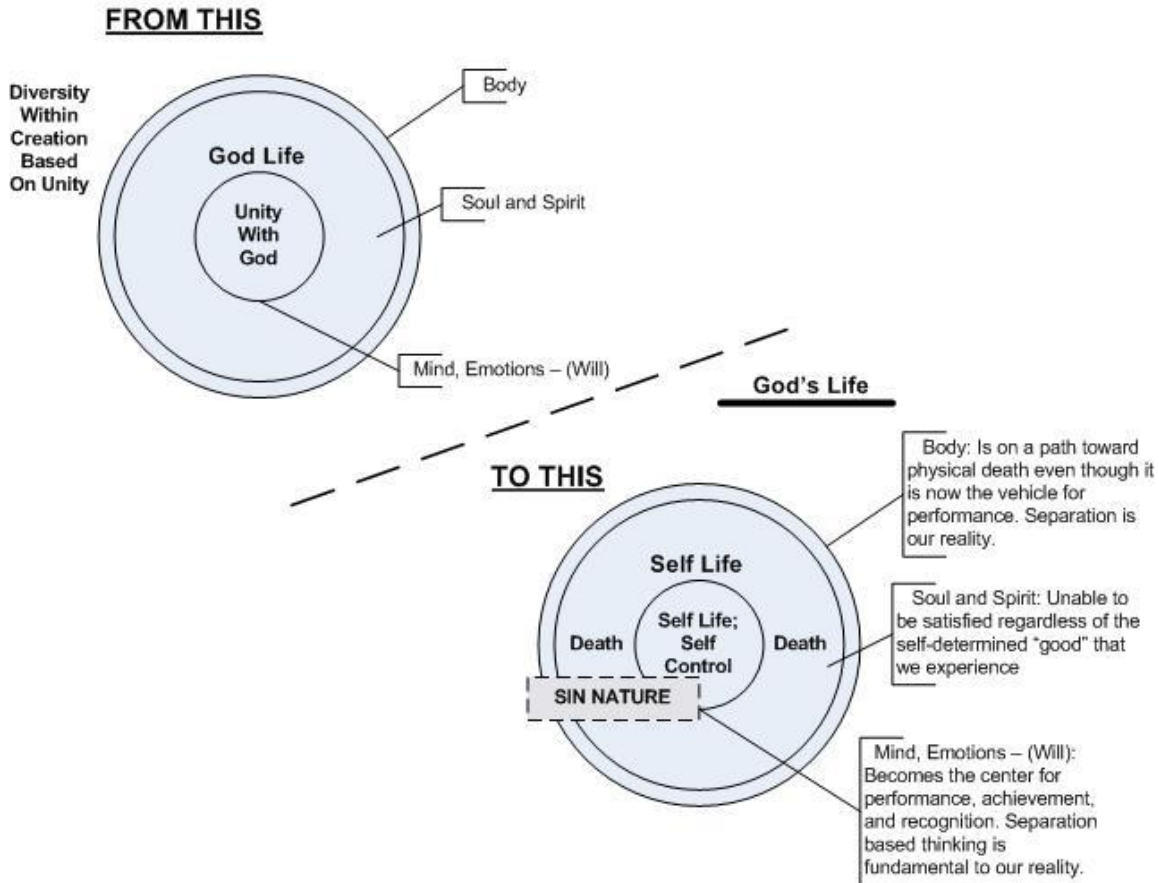
Some behaviors are viewed as good and some bad by the societies within which we live. If bad, we may seek to control our behaviors through discipline, ritual, practice, and mental and emotional control; the control of self. This is perhaps the highest level of human achievement if self-control is considered according to what we, or society recognizes as the best of humanity and self-expression.

Ultimately “good” and “evil” are defined by what we collectively believe is good and evil. Our social organization and forms of governance create structures for acceptable actions, and thus acceptance by others. On other levels of our existence the decisions may be made by each individual, family, or group.

Performance becomes the key to success and power to control is what is most desired. Financial strength is most often connected to this because it provides the means to control many of the circumstances that we experience. What messes everything up is that no matter how much power to control we gain, we never have enough to ensure that everything will be what we think is good.

Eve gave forbidden fruit to Adam because it was the natural response to the circumstances that she now experienced. Perhaps it is the first expression of the old saying, “Misery loves company.” We can apply all kinds of motivations and reasoning to her actions, and equally as many to Adams who willingly ate of the fruit also.

What’s a fact is that they both ate of the forbidden fruit by their own choice and everything changed.



Fundamentally the basis of our perception of "life" changed. For the first time Eve and Adam saw themselves, and each other as being fundamentally separate from all other forms of life. Separate from one another and most of all separate from God.

Unity was broken at all levels, though commonality with creation continued. Difference underlined by separation became the framework for our understanding, and served as a justification for dominance within relationships.

For the first time Adam and Eve had to consider how to effectively communicate their ideas to one another, and which of their ideas would determine their actions. For the first time their environment felt separate, different, and hostile. They saw each other as they had never seen each other before, and the very act of being seen raised the sense of shame of being naked.

The essence of Adam and Eve's decisions to run their own lives resulted in them having a different nature. Their new Sin nature, which on a practical level is being willing to choose Death rather than Life, or death rather than life to acquire power to control.

If Adam and Eve wanted to use an excuse it might be that they did not know what Death was like and they acted in ignorance of its effects. They were, in fact, without excuse because they knew in Unity with God not to eat from that tree. We too, have no excuses for all we need to do is look around us, or acquire information about what's happening in this world to understand the effects of the power of Sin.

If we are honest with ourselves then we already know evil from our own experiences. Humanity is like the frog in a pan of water with the temperature slowly rising. We seem to get more and more used to saying “yes” to Death, which is eternal. Unfortunately, most people are too busy trying to cope with their circumstances to notice. That’s a key part of Satan’s strategy.

While we could spend hours or years trying to understand the shocking, sudden, and awful experience that Adam and Eve experienced immediately after eating the forbidden fruit, it remains beyond our grasp because we will never know what it was like to live on this earth prior to the “fall”. How do we live with the reality that by our sins we have participated in the corruption of all that God created? What is our reaction in the presence of God? So many of us hide. Most often within what we call life.