

Assume Responsibility

SCRIPTURE: *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." Genesis 3:1*

- In Genesis 2:18, God introduces Himself to us as *YHWH, Lord* which means "I am who I am". It is very important for us to know who God is and so far we now know that God is *ELOHIM* and that God is good.
- It is also important for us to know and understand the enemy.

Who is the enemy?

- In Genesis 3, he appears to Eve as a serpent. Rev 12:9 describes him as a great dragon, a serpent of old. He is called the devil and Satan.
- Ezekiel 28:13 and Isaiah 14:13-14 describes him as endowed with many precious stones, he was anointed and beautiful. He was blameless until unrighteousness entered him. Pride had entered him and he turned against God, wanting to be like God. Because of this he became the evil one whom God threw down from heaven to the earth with his angels.
- His strategy: is to deceive and to make us doubt God.

Knowing this we should then:

1. (1 Peter 3:18) We have to be on alert because the enemy prowls like a roaring lion.
2. (2 Cor 11:14) He disguises himself as good.

How does sin begin?

1. The first thing he does is to introduce **doubt**. We see in Genesis 3, we see that Satan introduces doubt to Eve. He did not lie 100% but he was not speaking the whole truth either. This is deception.
 2. He then **distorts** the truth. God said in Genesis 2:17 "*you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die*. But in Genesis 3 this was distorted as Eve told the serpent that God had said not to eat or touch it.
 3. Then he will **deny** the consequence of our disobedience. He will directly attack the word of God.
 4. After that he will **destroy** God's character. He wants us to convince us that God is depriving us of something.
- It then becomes imperative that we know the Word of God so that the enemy will not have the opportunity to cast doubt in our life.
 - Adam and Eve gave the serpent an opportunity to tempt them because the only way that they could have appreciated the tree fully was if they were standing right beside it. (Gen 3:6) (Read also 1 John 2:16-17)
 - Adam should have assumed responsibility to follow God's instructions and reminded Eve. But instead he allowed her to continue conversing with the serpent, he allowed her to pluck from the tree, and he allowed her to eat from the fruit. It was his responsibility as the head of the family to protect his wife, to counsel his wife and to lead his wife.

What is the result of sin?

- Part of Satan's deception is to maximize pleasure and minimize consequences.
- Immediately after they ate of the fruit, they had instant **gratification**, (Gen 3:7) which is usually the initial result. But then after that, they began to experience **shame**, and they had to **cover up**. They then tried to **evade** the Lord. And when the Lord called them to **accountability** they started pointing fingers, this was **misdirection**.
- When we sin and are called to accountability our natural counter-reaction is to blame others and not assume responsibility.
- The consequences of sin are not only spiritual but also emotional and physical. Fear, guilt and shame happened immediately after Adam and Eve disobeyed. (Genesis 3:10)

What are the consequences of sin?

- God did not allow Adam to make excuses for his sin. The husband, as God's appointed leader in the family, must assume responsibility. Whatever happens to his family, the father is answerable to God.

- God also did not allow Eve to make excuses. Likewise, none of us will be allowed to make excuses. It only took one bite, only takes one sin for us to disobey God's commands.
- We are all accountable for our choices and if we choose to sin then the consequences of disobedience and sin affect not only ourselves but does who are around us.
- Because of Adam and Eve's choices sin entered the world. And because of this:
 - **Suffering entered the world.**
 - Women now experience pain in childbirth. Domestic conflict exists (Genesis 3:16). The husband is to rule over his wife, but woman's desire is to control her husband and be master over him. A husband and a wife are to complement each other, but because of sin, they compete.
 - **The earth was cursed.** (Genesis 3:17)
 - Work is designed to be a delight, but it became hard labor. There is now suffering in the world (Romans 8:22-23). When we follow our way and not God's instructions, we suffer.
- But then because God is good, in Genesis 3:20-21 we see that God had made garments of skin for Adam and Eve before sending them out of the garden. This is **grace, unmerited favor**. God provided a permanent solution to their shame and sin. This was the first shedding of blood and foreshadowing the death of Jesus on the cross. Part of that grace was to let them leave the garden so that they will not have an opportunity to sin again. But when they left, were removed from the presence of God and they began to die physically.

What was God's solution? (Genesis 3:15)





- This is the first prophecy for the coming of Jesus. That seed that was referred to in the verse is Jesus Christ and He came and fulfilled this prophecy when He crushed Satan by dying on the cross and rising again from the dead to save us from eternal death.

What should our response be? (Read Romans 5:12-15; Romans 6:23, and Romans 10:9)

- We should come to the decision and accept that we are indeed sinners and are in need of a Savior.
- We should accept and believe in the grace of God.
- We should assume responsibility for our choices. Assume responsibility for the life we live. Assume responsibility for knowing God and His word. Assume responsibility to committing ourselves to obey God's commands. Assume responsibility of living our lives as redeemed children seeking only to glorify God.

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: Is there a forbidden fruit in your life? Are there any deceptions that you believe in? Are you assuming responsibility for your life? For your choices? Do I really know God's word? What is stopping me from knowing God's word?</p>
	<p>Family: Husbands and Fathers, are you taking responsibility for the spiritual growth of your family? Wives, are you trying to control your husbands? How are you dealing with this? Talk to your children about sin and the consequences. About God and His grace. About Jesus and His sacrifice.</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Have you shared God's love with anyone lately? Is God's love prompting you to open yourself to a discipleship relationship?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: Is God prompting you to work in His ministry? How can you best reflect God's grace and love in your community?</p>

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.