

# THE RESTORATION OF MAN

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Outline#31

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Chpt. 20: TOUCHING SIN - REFERENCE: GEN 2:17(Duffy, p. 92)

Review:

1. Several Tendencies of unregenerate human nature that threaten successful leadership.
  1. REBELLION - The desire to be independent, not subject to authority; to assume a position which is like that of God, in which he is subject only to his own counsel. (Matthew 22:27, Exodus 20:3, 1 Samuel 15:22-23, Isaiah 14:13-14).
    1. Our Rebellious nature was to come under the control of the Jesus Christ, once we were born again. However, pride and unbelief will inhibit your progress in Jesus Christ (Duffy, p. 94)
  2. PRIDE - natural man has of himself in which he places himself higher than or more important than others (with heart as to the consequences of being removed from this position, hence a protective rationale for its defense). (1 Peter 5:5, Proverbs 15:23, Philip 2:3-9)
    1. Your Pride will place in in direct opposition with Good, not man, but God! However, his grace depends on our willingness to obey his word and humbly submit to the circumstances in which God has placed us. (Duffy, p. 94)
  3. INSECURITY - The result of threatening circumstances to a person who reviews that security comes from being in personal control of circumstances, people and decisions which influence one's life, rather than from trust in God and obedience to His precepts.

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2. Tree of Good and Evil: God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of the "Tree of knowledge of good and evil," however, their desire to go against God and disobey him, led them to a place to reside outside of the garden. Now being outside of the garden can be compared to being outside of the church. In other words, God told them what to do but they chose to disobey HIM and this developed into a sinful nature. Man always has the innate desire to go against the gain and do something different than what God wants us to do. (Gen. 2:17)
3. Research on the Tree of Good and Evil (Reference: [https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don\\_stewart/don\\_stewart\\_700.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_700.cfm))

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We now come to the first, and only, negative commandment that God gave to Adam. It concerns the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that was in the midst of the Garden of Eden.

And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil ([Genesis 2:9](#)).

## Moral Test

God had made humanity in His image and after His likeness. Humankind was like God in the sense that he could love, think, and communicate. There was now a test that was going to be made. Human beings would not be truly human unless there was some test to determine their faithfulness to God. God, therefore, set apart one tree from all the other trees and forbade humankind to eat of that tree.

## Actual Tree

As was true with the tree of life, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was an actual tree. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil would have had to have been unique—there would have been no chance the fruit would have been eaten by mistake.

## Nature Of The Tree

There was nothing intrinsically evil about the tree that God forbade humanity to eat. It is not necessary to assume, as some have done, that God created a special type of tree. He may have designated one specific tree as the forbidden one. Furthermore, we do not know what type of fruit it was that Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat. Western tradition has suggested it was an apple, but rabbinical literature suggest either the grape or the apricot. Others believe it was a vine rather than a tree. The only fruit mentioned in the passage is the fig tree (verse 7). The idea that it was an apple may have originated from the common sound in Latin for apple *malum* and evil *malus*.

It has been suggested that some type of poison was introduced into humankind's system from the eating of the tree. However, it is not necessary to assume that the tree contained some poison that would eventually result in their death.

## Nature Of God

The point of the test is that God told them not to eat of a certain tree. The sin was disobeying God, there was no magical power in the fruit. God Himself is

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the ultimate source of what is right and what is wrong. If He said it was wrong to eat of that tree, then it was wrong. The Bible makes it clear that God is responsible to no one.

Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has taught Him (Isaiah 40:13).

## God's Testing Of Humanity

The Bible says that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was placed within the reach of Adam. Why do such a thing? This introduces us to one of the consistent themes of Scripture - God tests His people. God wishes to see how we react to Him and His commandments. God's testing is to bring out the best in us, not the worst.

## Did Evil Already Exist?

This brings us to another issue. Some commentators feel that evil would already have had to exist for God to make this commandment. They argue that the idea of evil would have made no sense to Adam unless he had somehow previously observed it.

Others disagree. They do not feel that Adam had to completely comprehend the concept of evil when God made him aware of its possible entrance into the world.

## Scripture Does Not Clearly Say

Scripture does not clearly tell us either way whether Adam had any concept of evil when God gave him the commandment not to eat of the fruit of the tree. Consequently, there is no way to be certain as to Adam's understanding of sin before the Fall.

## No Evil Tree In Future

Though there will be a tree of life in the world to come, there will not be a counterpart of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In the future world, there will be no moral test necessary. The victory over evil has been won, not by Adam, but by Christ.

## Summary

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was placed by God in the midst of the garden to provide a test for man. We can make the following conclusions.

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1. For humans to be fully human there had to be a legitimate test to see which way they would choose.

2. It was the only negative commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve.

3. There was nothing intrinsically sinful about the tree or the fruit. The sin was in disobeying God.

4. The idea that God tests His creation is found consistently throughout Scripture.

(Reference: [https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don\\_stewart/don\\_stewart\\_700.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_700.cfm))

5. There will be no similar tree in the future because evil will no longer exist.

4. God Antidote for Disobedience: God's antidote for sin is very simple, it is called obedience. Being obedient will trump out sin and the effects of sin all day long. Furthermore, it will keep you pure and holy, because you have a desire to obey the will of God. According to Ephesians 6:1-3, Children are to obey their parents. As a result of obeying their parents, their days upon this land will be long. There is long prosperous life in being obedient to your parents, that are and have been mandated as the agents of God. Being an agent of God requires you to bring order to your children and the home, according to the word of God. (Ephesians 6:1-3)

5. Why Children, nevertheless people are attracted to disobedience?  
People learn bad habits when they are adolescents, and it manifest itself into them at a very young age. Parents are the root cause of this behavior. The act of misbehaving, being disobedient and even condoning a rebellious attitude is the fault of the Parent. That's right, because God has placed the parent in charge of the child, not the child in charge of the parents. Furthermore, as the child becomes an adult, those attitudes and behaviors follow them because, this is a spiritual problem. People in world will label it as systemic, and the habit can be systemic, but the root cause is sin, which was allowed by the parents. Someone saw the disobedient, but turned a "blind eye" when they saw the child going down the wrong road. There is a saying, that it takes a village to raise a child, but my question is why is it the the villagers are not speaking up about the children in their community. Maybe, they are saying, "it's not my business." Well it is all of the villagers business to make our communities better. Again, you can not make a community better by excluding God and disobeying his commandments. (Duffy, p. 99)

6. You Reap what you Sow (Gal 6:7): As a result of parents living in a home where there is no accountability, it creates a systemic problem, because

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of Cause and Effect. In other words, the cause is Sin and the effects of sin (disobedience to God) is ultimately, eternal damnation. (Duffy, p. 99)

7. Why are People fascinated with sin? Why do people like scary things, why do people like to live on the edge, why do people jump off cliffs and stay, they defied death. People love the thrill of disobedience. Why will a married man or woman, place their marriage in danger and sleep with the devil. That's right the devil, the evil spirit is an agent of Satan, and when you go against God, you are bound to the devil, naturally and spiritually. The Spirit of God will not direct you to go against the word of God, nevertheless, the messenger of God. The author states, people are fascinated with destruction and with the danger of destruction, as long as the destruction does not actually touch them." People like to get upfront and close to the danger to experience the thrill, knowing very well you could lose your life or everything that you have, even your soul. (Duffy, 100)
8. Man has natural tendency to taste evil: We have a natural tendency to want to taste of the knowledge of good and evil and to think that we can do so without being injured by it. Some modern educators teach that it is good to teach your children about sexual perversion at an early age so that you can be in a better position to protect them. But this is simply not so. Our best protection against evil is to have no knowledge of it and to pursue knowledge only in the context of moral excellence (2 Pet. 1:4-7)
9. Demonstration of how sin spreads and contaminate your spirit. (Read "Sin is the same way..." (Duffy, p. 100). The focus is on how the soot of smoke will be placed on your fingers and it is hard to get it off. This is compared to sin intergrating itself with your spirit. Furthermore, if you are "not willing," not even the HolyGhost can help you, because, remember that the HolyGhost can not dwell in an unclean temple. Now when administered wrong and the teaching is not right, about returning to Jesus Christ you get the following result:

## 1 Corinthians 6:15-20 - King James Version

**15** Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. **16** What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. **17** But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. **18** Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. **19** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? **20** For ye are bought

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with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Then, there was the lady visiting a friend at Veteran's Hospital in Durham who fell under conviction as Earl, Mike, and I ministered to her friend with some music. Her tears ran down her face, and she said, *"I want to get back right with God. I want the holy Ghost again!"* I said, *"If you ever had it, you still do."* "No, no," she answered. *"I mean the real holy Ghost , with speaking in tongues."* *"It's still there."* "No," she said, *"I'm backslidden. The holy Ghost won't dwell in an unclean temple"* *"You just lift up your hands right now,"* I told her, *"And let the Lord bless you."* I laid hands on her head and prayed, and she began to weep and speak in tongues. *"I didn't think the Lord would do this!"* She said. *"I thought I had to get saved and sanctified all over again!"* She was so happy!

Reference:[https://www.isaiah58.com/clark/clark07\\_18\\_99.html](https://www.isaiah58.com/clark/clark07_18_99.html)

10. Personal Relationship with God is the Answer. People need to be consistently taught the Word of God and led into the right direction.