

THE RESTORATION OF MAN

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Outline#33

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

1. 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 grain and do something different than what God wants us to do. (Gen. 2:17)
2. Research on the Tree of Good and Evil (Reference: https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_700.cfm)

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

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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 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

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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.

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)

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

3. 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)
4. 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,

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because God has place 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)

5. 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 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)
6. 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 of 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 they devil. That’s right the devil, the evil spirit is an agent of Satan, and when you go against God, you are bond 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 tough them.” People like to get upfront and close to the danger to experience the thrill, knowing very well you could loose your life or everything that you have, even your soul. (Duffy, 100)
7. Man has natural tendency to taste evil: We have a natural; tendency to want to tase 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)
8. 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 integrating itself with your spirit. Furthermore, if you are “not willing,” not even the HolyGhost can help you, because, remember

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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:

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

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10. Fascination with Sin: Again mankind is fascinated just like a child with sin. In other words, when someone tell you that you can not do something, you are drawn away into sin by your own lust to do what is wrong. This mindset was established and took root in the Garden of Eden. God told Adam and Eve, not to eat of the Tree of Good and Evil, but they did, because of Lust. (Duffy, p. 100)
11. Children that run from Underneath the Shield: The Parable of the “Prodigal Son” is a great example dealing with wayward children, that remove themselves from under the shield (Authority of God). (Duffy, 101)

Wayward Children - Luke 15:11

a [A certain man had two sons ...] The 36th parable in Luke (Lk. 15:11-32), illustrating the difference between the concern of God and the murmuring Pharisees over the salvation of a lost soul. Next, Lk. 16:1.

b [two sons] Note the 100 sheep (Lk. 15:4), 10 coins (Lk. 15:8), and now 2 sons--100,10, and 2--one lost from each number. The sheep and coin were sought for diligently until they were found, for they were not capable of moral choices and action like the son who was not sought after. They were not responsible agents as was the son. Others had responsibility to find them, but the son was personally responsible for his coming back home. There was joy in each case when the lost was found (Lk. 15:7,9,22-24).

12. Children Have the Discernment of Hypocrisy: Children saved or unsaved know when Parents demonstrate that they are hypocritical. Yes, Children may not admit it, “but they know when the parents are not being honest with God, yet the Parents expect the children to obey them.” (Duffy, p.102). Nevertheless, God does not want parents to live a double live. You all have heard the saying, “Do as I say, not as I do.” We Parent do not have a ticket to do wrong and get away with it, they too have a Parent, His name is Jesus Christ, who is God, and if you are saved, God has rule over you therefore, everyone should obey his. Remember the your Obedience is better than sacrifice. (See the story of King Saul and how he dealt with King Agag.) Reference:

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Obedience Better than Sacrifice (I Samuel 15:21-23)

21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

13. Father must Consider the root of Sin: Fathers must teach their children that they are held accountable for their actions. Mother's must reinforce, this accountability, through nourishment, especially, when the Father the disciplinarian has educated and show the children, what sin is. Sinful acts are discussed in the Bible. Children need to know what is good. Interestingly, the more children know about sin and exposed to it, again they will aggravate towards it, just like Adam and Eve did in the Garden. "Every father should recognize that the difficulties he confronts in dealing with the character traits of his children are rooted not merely in Adam and the fall, but are specific with respect to his own character defects, as well. God points out that we are always quickest to judge what we condemn in others because 'we do the same things ourselves. (Romans 2:1-3, Matthew 7:1-5). (Duffy, p. 102)
14. Correct Discipline: "And Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Ephes. 6:4)
15. Accountability means rendering Judgement: From a parents point of view, Fathers will always have to conduct themselves in such a manner, where they will have to deal with reprimanding their children, for being disobedient. However, it is how you deal with them. According to Ephes. 6:4, we are not to provoke them to anger. We are to discipline them in Love, however, that does not mean the child will not be punished for disobedience.

Principles of Discipling - Chpt 21

16. What is Tough Love according to God's Word?

Chastening

Some Christians do not think of chastening any other way except by sickness and disease. They believe they are being chastened when sick and yet they know nothing in particular that they have done. The facts

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below prove that when God actually allows plagues there is a reason which will be known to the individual or nation. God never uses drastic means except as a last resort, when all other methods of getting men to obey have been exhausted. Lev. 26 and Dt. 28 are clear chapters on this point. In Job 33:14-29 we have the cause of sickness in many cases.

If a child of God wants to claim he is being chastened by God, then let him acknowledge also that he has repeatedly refused to listen to God or obey Him (Job 33). Let him acknowledge his sins, for God does not send plagues upon obedient children. They are given promises of healing and protection from plagues if they will but appropriate them (Ex. 15:26; Ps. 91; 103:3; Mt. 7:9-11; 17:20; 21:22; Mk. 9:23; 11:22-24 Jn. 14:12-15; 15:7,16; 1Pet. 2:24; 2Jn. 1:2; Jas. 5:14-16). Only those who sow will reap and only those who rebel will be cursed (Gal. 6:7-8 Job 33:14-29 Lev. 26; Dt. 28).

On the other hand, Christians are subject as much as sinners to contagious diseases or certain physical maladies, through improper nutrition, exercise, and improper care of the body. They are also subject to satanic attacks, and if they do not learn to claim the promises and resist Satan they may become physically afflicted like other men (Jas. 4:7; 1Pet. 5:7-9 Eph. 4:27; 6:10-18).

One thing is certain, God is not to blame for sicknesses upon His obedient children and to claim such is to cooperate with Satan and not God (Jn. 10:10; Lk. 13:16; Acts 10:38). If people use Job as an excuse for unbelief, let them realize that Job did not know the gospel. He had no written revelation, covenant, or promise, and yet he was healed by God. Let people likewise fight as Job did until they get an answer and healing (Job 42:10; Jas. 5:10-11).

Would any earthly father chasten or train a child through cancers, tumors, or innumerable sicknesses and diseases? Would this demonstrate true fatherhood, as Jesus taught of God in Mt. 7:7-11 Lk. 11:9-13? What earthly parent would allow a child to suffer physically if he could help it? Shall we say that God is the only Father who loves to see His children sick? How could He love them much more than earthly parents if He were this kind of being? Are sicknesses the only method God has for training His children?

Eight reasons when and why God chastises:

1. When people refuse to hear (Job 33)
2. When they commit iniquity (2Sam. 7:14)
3. When people provoke God (Ps. 6:1; 38:1)
4. When they forsake God (Ps. 89:30-32)
5. When people refuse to judge themselves (1Cor. 11:32)

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6. When they stubbornly rebel (Dt. 11:2-6 Lev. 26:14-31 Num. 14)
7. When people sow to the flesh (Gal. 6:7-8)
8. When His children need instruction and correction (Heb. 12:5-10 Rev. 3:19)