

One Fruit...Many Sins

Q. By what sin did our first parents fall from their original condition?

A. Our first parents' sin was eating the forbidden fruit.

(Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A #15)

“So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”

(Genesis 3:4-5)

Over the past few days we've taken a look at the first sin ever committed, the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Our catechism, tells us that “*our first parents' sin was eating the forbidden fruit*” (WSC #15). While it is true that Adam and Eve failed to fulfill the Covenant of Works by eating the forbidden fruit, as we know all too well, sin is never an isolated event. When we fall into sin, we are almost never guilty of simply committing one sin, but many sins. The same can be said about Adam and Eve's in the Garden. In the narrative of the Fall, we don't merely find one sin committed by our first parents, we find a plethora of sins hidden beneath the surface. Today we will look at each of the particular sins committed in Genesis chapter 3.

First of all, prior to the eating of the forbidden fruit, we find Eve's first sin, **the sin of adding to the Word of God**. In Genesis 3:1 we read, “*Now the serpent...said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”*. What is most interesting is Eve's response to Satan's temptation. Eve replied, “*We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’”* (Genesis 3:2-3). Notice what Eve has just done here in vv. 2-3. She has added to God's Word. Did God really say that they were not to “*touch*” the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? No! Instead God had said back in Genesis 2:16, “*...of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*”. The first compromise Eve had made was a failure to trust in the sufficiency of God's Word, adding her own words to God's covenant. As Christians we are warned about this sin throughout the Scriptures. In Deuteronomy 4:2 we read, “*You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.*”.

Not only did Eve sin by adding to the Word of God, **she also sinned by enticing her husband to join her in sin.** After succumbing to the temptation of the serpent in eating the forbidden fruit, we read that, *“She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”* (Genesis 3:6). O, How easy is it for us to attempt to placate our own guilt and shame by enticing others to join us in our depraved behavior! This is one of the easiest sins for us to fall into. May we heed the warning of Jesus who tell us, *“whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.”* (Mark 9:42).

We see one other sin in Genesis chapter 3, and this time it is **a sin of omission perpetrated by Adam.** In Genesis 3:6, again we read that after Eve had eaten the forbidden fruit, *“She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”* Did you catch that? Where was Adam while Eve was being tempted? He was.... *“with her”!* Adam was right beside his wife while the serpent was tempting her to eat. He was a silent bystander to his wife’s cosmic insurrection. He shared in Eve’s sin by failing to speak up in protest! In Leviticus 5:1 we are given this sober warning, *“If a person sins in hearing the utterance of an oath, and is a witness, whether he has seen or known of the matter—if he does not tell it, he bears guilt.”* .

Sin is never committed in isolation. We don’t fall into grievous sin suddenly...we fall into grievous sin as we make little compromises along the way. Today, take a stand to fight against every sin that comes your way. Don’t give Satan a foothold. Don’t budge on your conviction to live a holy life.

Dig Even Deeper into God’s Word!

Ephesians 5:3

James 1:13-15

1 Peter 5:8