

# “The Nature of Sin”

a study of Genesis 3

WELCOME! We are grateful you are here,  
and we are excited to share God’s word with you!  
Saturday, February 22, 2020 – 4:00 pm

part one:  
Genesis  
3:1-13

# ← The Nature of Sin (part one) →

## Genesis 3:1-5

“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast...” [v1]

### ◆ The serpent:

- A created being, creature (not *eternal*, though around since *just after* the beginning)
- Before sin, different from the creature we know as a snake now:
  - ✓ “...was *more cunning* than any beast of the field” [3:1]
  - ✓ it could talk! [3:1, 4-5]
  - ✓ it could walk (or *fly*?) [cp 3:14]

The book of Revelation presents us with a “great dragon...**that serpent of old**, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world...” [Rv 12:9; 12:3]

*\*Whether this serpent is an agent of the devil or Satan himself, for the purposes of our study we will treat it as being the devil*

Chinese Dragon:  
“that serpent of old”?



## Genesis 3

# ←———— The Nature of Sin —————→ (part one)

## Genesis 3:1-5

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◆ The serpent:

- A created being, ***creature*** (not *eternal*, though around since *just after* the beginning)
- Before sin, different from the creature we know as a snake now
- Uses **intelligence** to postulate a very *cunning* question:  
“Has God *indeed said...?*” [v1]



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*Genesis 3*

# The Nature of Sin

(part one)

“Has God *indeed* said?”

**This tactic seeks to raise doubts about God's goodness:**

God is, by Divine Nature, **very good** [cp Gn 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31; Titus 1:2; James 1:17]

Even so, the world is tempted to believe that God **is not good!**

For Example: “Has God *indeed* said...”

- the world was created in **only** six days? [a “scientific”, unbelieving look at Genesis 1]
- woman's role is **only** “helper” and not “**leader**”? [distorting, despising Gn 2:18-25]
- marriage is **only** between one **man** and one **woman**? [despising of Gen 2:22-25]
- you cannot eat of **every** tree of the garden? [distorting, despising of Gen 2:16-17]



Genesis 3

# ← The Nature of Sin (part one) →

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- Before sin, different from the creature we know as a snake now
- Uses **intelligence** to postulate a very *cunning* question:

“Has God *indeed said*, ‘You shall *not* eat of *every* tree...?’”

**GOD**

**VS**

**SATAN**

“Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat...” [Gn 2:16-17]

“You shall not eat of every tree of the garden...” [Gn 3:1]

...with one *cunning* question, God's **freedom** seems like **prison!**

Genesis 3



# The Nature of Sin

(part one)

## GOD

“Of every tree... you may freely eat...” [Gn 2:16]

“All things are lawful for me, *but not all things are helpful*; all things are lawful for me, *but not all things edify*.” [1 Cor 10:23]

“I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt; and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt...” [Ex 3:16-17]

“Marriage is honorable among all, and *the bed undefiled*; but *fornicators and adulterers* God will judge...” [Hb 13:4]

“And you shall know the truth, and *the truth shall make you free*...” [John 8:32]

# VS

## SATAN

“You shall *not eat of every tree*...” [Gn 3:1]

You cannot take advantage of all things: “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle...” [Col 2:21-23; the “doctrines of men”, “appearance of wisdom”...]

“We remember the fish we ate in Egypt *that cost nothing*...” [Nm 11:5 (ESV)]

Marriage *restricts* your animal ‘needs’: “Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods...” [1 Cor 6:13, context]

Satan tempts us to believe that the truth is *a lie* that will restrict and imprison us: he asks falsely, “What is truth?” [John 18:38] “What is God *really hiding* from us...?”

# Genesis 3

# The Nature of Sin

(part one)

## Genesis 3:1-5

“Now the serpent

◆ The serpent:

- A created being, creature (not God)
- Before sin, different from the creature
- Uses **intelligence** to postulate a very *cunning* question

Eve responds: “**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.’” - her answer to the serpent reveals at least **two** things:

- ✓ she has thought *a lot* about God's command (and **that** tree!)
- ✓ the question has begun to shake her trust in God and His word...  
God said do not **eat**; **she** said do not even **touch** the tree!
  - Eve was already seeing God's law as **overly restrictive** -- but the restriction against touching the tree was **her own invention!**



## Genesis 3

**False RELIGION --**  
That is, when we uphold our  
*traditions* as though they were the  
law of God -- betrays a *lack of faith*  
in what God actually said!  
[see Matthew 15:3-11]

# ←———— The Nature of Sin —————→ (part one)

## Genesis 3:1-5

“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast...” [v1]

### ◆ The serpent:

- A created being, ***creature*** (not *eternal*, though around since *just after* the beginning)
- Before sin, different from the creature we know as a snake now
- Uses **intelligence** to postulate a very *cunning* question: “Has God ***indeed said...***?”
- Seeing that Eve is shaken, the serpent goes a step further in his boldness, answering her: “You ***will not surely*** die.”



In order to “sell” his false doctrine, the serpent invents a “theology” about why *what God said was not what God meant* -- apparently, God has *selfish, hidden* motives for not letting them eat! “For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and *you will be like God*, knowing good and evil.” [Gn 3:5; a hidden blessing?]

## Genesis 3

# The Nature of Sin

(part one)

## Genesis 3:6

“So when the woman saw that the tree was good...”

♦ “...because she had been affected by the serpent’s reasoning”

“For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish **their own righteousness**, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”  
[Romans 10:3]

“...because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, ...but became futile **in their thoughts**, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” [Romans 1:21]

Genesis 3

# ←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ (part one)

## Genesis 3:6

“So when the woman **saw** that the tree was good...”

- ◆ Once trust in God and in His word has been affected, human “reasoning” takes over as a new guide for life...
  - The woman begins to believe the serpent's theology because her own eyes “confirm” what the serpent said; in this process the word of God, which has already given clear teaching and instruction, is forgotten...



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*Genesis 3*

# ←———— The Nature of Sin —————→ (part one)

## Genesis 3:6

“So when the woman **saw** that the tree was good...”

- ◆ Once trust in God and in His word has been affected, human “reasoning” takes over as a new guide for life...
- ◆ As the woman begins to give in to sin, she is attacked in three ways:

- ① **The lust of the flesh:** Eve “saw that the tree was good for food”. “Hunger” often describes every “appetite” of the physical body that desires to be fulfilled, whether for food or other passions. In this case, why would God **deny the woman access to such good food?**
- ② **The lust of the eyes:** Eve saw that “it was pleasant to the eyes”. She has more than she needs; but that forbidden fruit **is so beautiful!**
- ③ **The prideful lust for knowledge:** she saw it was “desirable to make one wise”. A desire to know what God did not reveal, to *be like Him*. Is it possible God has hidden that which is **really the best?**



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**Genesis 3**

# The Nature of Sin

(part one)

## Disarming Satan

Satan has a powerful, but *limited* arsenal...

**With the woman [Gn 3:6]:**

- “the tree was good *for food*”
- “pleasant *to the eyes*”
- “desirable *to make one*...”

**With Jesus [Lk 4:1-13]:**

“I” [1:1-13]

**WE HAVE EXPOSED SATAN!!**

If we know what weapons he will use, then we know how to shore up our defenses!! The word of God thoroughly equips us against Satan’s attacks!  
[James 4:7; Eph 6:10-18; 1 Cor 10:13; etc]

Analyze any sin:  
it will fall into one of  
these 3 categories!

“...all that is in the world. And the one who does the will of the Father who sent him, he will not be judged, but will have eternal life because he has seen the Son of Man and believed in him.” [1 Jn 2:23]

Genesis 3



# ←———— The Nature of Sin —————→ (part one)

## Genesis 3:6

“So when the woman **saw** that the tree was good...”

- ◆ Once trust in God and in His word has been affected, human “reasoning” takes over as a new guide for life...
- ◆ As the woman begins to give in to sin, she is attacked in three ways
- ◆ Eve gave in to the full weight of temptation: “she took of its fruit and ate”
  - We have at least two things that Eve did not to help us in our fight:
    - ✓ the **full** counsel of God [see Rom 15:4; 1 Pet 2:2-4]
    - ✓ **assured victory** for those who are **in Christ!**  
[see Col 2:6-15; Heb 2:14-18]



But **WE**  
don't have  
to give in!

—————→  
*Genesis 3*

# ←———— The Nature of Sin —————→ *(part one)*

## Genesis 3:7-8

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened...” [v7]

- ♦ The serpent was right! Their eyes were opened, just as he “promised”! [cp v5]
  - In this is the deceitfulness of sin: because sin is of the world (as are our physical bodies), it often seems truly to deliver the satisfaction that we are seeking!
    - the adulterer imagines he will never be discovered [but cp Prov 7:21-23]
    - the addict imagines he will use drugs only this one last time [but cp Prov 20:1; etc]
    - the one who trusts in riches believes he is only being prudent [but cp Mt 6:19-21; etc]



### ***Warning!***

**“For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” [Gal 6:8]**

**Genesis 3**

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  - In this is the deceitfulness of sin: because sin is of the world (as are our physical bodies), it often seems truly to deliver the satisfaction that we are seeking!
  - Consider the serpent's “promise” that their eyes would be opened. They are in *paradise*: the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil can only offer them knowledge of what?
    - EVERYTHING they know and all they have been a part of up to now is GOOD only!
    - this tree can only offer them knowledge of *evil*: but often *that* is the temptation!!



Genesis 3

# ←———— The Nature of Sin —————→ (part one)

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“Then the eyes of both of them were opened...” [v7]

- ◆ The serpent was right! Their eyes were opened, just as he “promised”! [cp v5]
- ◆ “...and they knew that they were naked” [v7]
  - This new knowledge (*of evil*) did not bring a blessing, but brought shame
    - once they had learned what they shouldn't have known, they could not simply return to their state of prior innocence...



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*Genesis 3*

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- ◆ “...and they knew that they were naked” [v7]
  - This new knowledge (*of evil*) did not bring a blessing, but brought shame
  - “...and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings” [v7]
    - now ***exposed***, they tried to “cover” the shame of their new knowledge
    - they make “coverings” [*"aprons" (ASV); "loincloths" (ESV)*]: “clothes” to hide and cover the intimate parts of the body [cp Heb 4:13]



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*Genesis 3*

# ←———— The Nature of Sin —————→ (part one)

## Genesis 3:7-8

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened...” [v7]

“...they heard the sound of the LORD God...in the garden” [v8]

◆ Later, we discover that the “sound” they heard was God’s voice [see 3:10]

- Like us, the relationship Adam and Eve had with God was based on His word!

- As with so many others, even in the Garden God presented Himself as Spirit

• cp how God presented Himself to Israel [Deut 4:36; 5:24; *cp also Ex 33:12-18; 34:5-7*]

• cp similarly Jesus as the “Word” of God who also **is** God [John 1:1-14; etc]



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*Genesis 3*

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◆ Later, we discover that the “sound” they heard was God’s voice [see 3:10]

◆ “...Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God”

- This is one of the saddest moments in human history: God sought fellowship with the man He had made and man *hid himself from God*

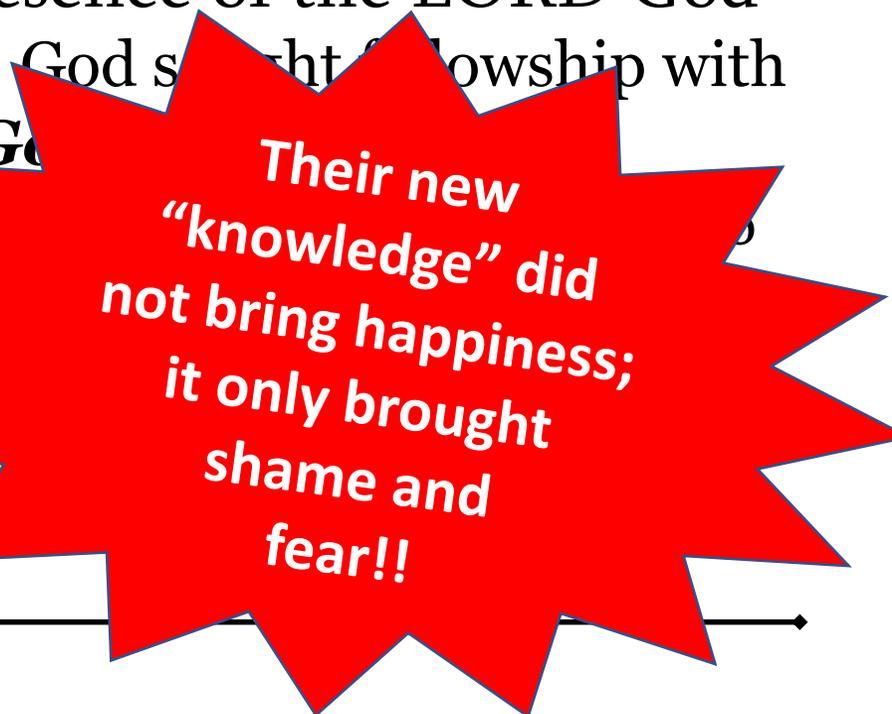
• can you imagine a more beautiful moment than hearing the voice of God?



Why would they hide from GOD?



What had GOD ever done that they should fear Him??



Their new “knowledge” did not bring happiness; it only brought shame and fear!!

Genesis 3

# ←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ (part one)

## Genesis 3:7-8

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“...they heard the sound of the LORD God...in the garden” [v8]

- ◆ Later, we discover that the “sound” they heard was God’s voice [see 3:10]
- ◆ “...Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God”
  - This is one of the saddest moments in human history: God sought fellowship with the man He had made and man ***hid himself from God's presence!***
  - Note that ***they hid themselves*** from God and not vice-versa; even with their sin, ***God sought for them...***



- they hid “among the trees of the Garden”; they had already made “coverings” for themselves from leaves, but when they perceived that they were ***still naked***, they tried to use ***the whole tree!***

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*Genesis 3*

# ←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ (part one)

## Genesis 3:9-11

“Then the LORD God called to Adam...‘Where are you?’” [v9]

- ♦ Seeing that the man has hidden himself, God continues seeking fellowship
  - In asking, “Where are you?”, is it possible that God does not know where Adam is?
    - Of course God knows where Adam is. He wants the man to come back to Him, and in order for that to happen, there must first be a ***confession of wrongdoing***.  
[cp Mark 1:4, 15; Luke 24:46-47; etc]



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*Genesis 3*

# ←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ *(part one)*

## Genesis 3:9-11

“Then the LORD God called to Adam...‘Where are you?’” [v9]

- ◆ Seeing that the man has hidden himself, God continues seeking fellowship
- ◆ “...he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself...’” [v10]
- Is it possible to be "dressed" (“coverings” of leaves) and yet still naked? The man admits that the “clothes” he made were insufficient to cover him...

We must develop the mind of God if we are to deal properly with the problems that the world presents us with. Genesis 3 will show later that these “clothes” were quite insufficient, and God will properly clothe them. In a world where sin is turned loose, we must dedicate ourselves to seek God’s perspective for a life that will please God in all areas and in every way...



*Genesis 3*

# ←———— The Nature of Sin —————→ (part one)

## Genesis 3:9-11

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- ♦ Seeing that the man has hidden himself, God continues seeking fellowship
- ♦ “...he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself...’” [v10]
- ♦ “...Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you...?” [v11]
  - Of course, God clearly knows the answer to this question as well. So why ask?

Confessing sin is a humbling act which puts us back on the path to fellowship with God. If we do not admit our sin, there is no way we can repent and therefore no way that we can be forgiven...

Confession, just like prayer, is not **for** God – He already knows what we have done (and what we need) before we ask [cp Mt 6:8]. Confession and prayer are for **OUR own good!**



## Genesis 3

# ← The Nature of Sin (part one) →

## Genesis 3:12-13

“Then the man said, ‘The woman whom You gave me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’ [v12]

- ♦ Did Adam really **confess** his sin?

No! He only shifted the blame to someone else!

“I'm sorry”; “I did wrong”; “I sinned” – that's the way a **humble** confession begins. In a false 'confession', which is really just a transfer of blame to another person or to some circumstance (a **justification**), the *last words* are: “...well, so then, because of all these other things, **I had to do it...**”

Adam placed the “I did wrong” at the end of his confession, justifying himself instead of accepting that he had truly done wrong



Genesis 3

# ←———— The Nature of Sin —————→ (part one)

## Genesis 3:12-13

“Then the man said, ‘The woman whom **You** gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’ [v12]

- ♦ Did Adam really **confess** his sin?
- ♦ **Whom** did Adam blame for his sin?
  - Did you catch that?! He blamed **GOD!** “It was YOU who gave this woman to be with me!”



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*Genesis 3*

# ←———— *The Nature of Sin* —————→ (part one)

## Genesis 3:12-13

“Then the man said, ‘The woman whom **You** gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’ [v12]

“The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ [v13]

♦ Did Eve confess her sin?

- Eve, like Adam before her, placed the “I ate” as a justification and not a confession



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*Genesis 3*

# ←———— The Nature of Sin —————→ (part one)

## Genesis 3:12-13

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“The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ [v13]

♦ Did Eve confess her sin?

♦ **Whom** did Eve blame for her sin?

- was she more “noble” than Adam in passing the blame to the serpent?

Did you catch that?! **She also** blamed **GOD!**

**WHICH YOU  
CREATED!**



Genesis 3

# The Nature of Sin

(part one)

## Order by decree

God the Creator;  
Sovereign over  
whole universe



Man; given  
“dominion”  
over all the  
animals



Woman; his  
“comparable  
helper”



The “serpent”; a  
creature made to  
serve man



## The disorder of sin

The “serpent”; gives  
a new order/word  
to the woman



Woman; instead of ‘help’  
she gives the man  
forbidden fruit



Man;  
knowing God’s  
orders, decides  
to disobey Him



God the Creator;  
is despised and  
blamed by all



**Sin  
completely  
inverts the  
order God  
decreed at  
creation:**

# The Nature of Sin

(part one)

## Order by decree

## The disorder of sin

God the Creator  
So  
w

The correction that comes from God aims to restore the spiritual order that He decreed from the beginning, in place of the “natural” order resulting from disobedience...



The “serpent”; gives a new order/word to the woman

instead of ‘help’ she gives the man forbidden fruit



Where are YOU?

Have you hidden yourself?  
Do you feel exposed, afraid?

He is *seeking* for you;  
would you come to Him?



The “serpent”; a creature made to serve man

Sin  
comp  
invert  
orde  
decre  
creation