

Pastor Richard Schwartz

“There Is No Other God But Christ: The Lie That We Could Be God”

Genesis 2:25-3:13

**For Note-Takers: Underline any words or phrases which stand out to you. Circle words or phrases that you have a question about.**

**Point #1** - The first appearance of Satan, the serpent, begins by telling us that he was the most crafty creature that God had made. It is notable that Satan is a creature that was created by God Himself. The word “crafty” means someone or something which is skilled in deception. Satan is known as a deceiver who traffics only in lies. Here in the perfect garden of Eden appears the first imperfection in the world which comes in the form of a lie. God is always truth, but His Word is questioned by Satan, the serpent. He asks Eve whether or not God had actually said that Eve should not eat of any tree in the garden. The question itself is dishonest and deceptive as it puts a negative slant to God’s command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God had never said that Adam and Eve could not eat of any tree in the garden, but simply that there was only one tree that they could not eat the fruit from. Is it not often that Satan will try to redefine what God has said in His Word so that we will disobey Christ? Satan will say, “You don’t really have to do this, because that’s not what God actually said.”

**Point #2** - The first mistake that Eve made was that she answered the serpent. By engaging Satan in his argument, she was allowing deception into her heart. Her response, at first, seems to be a good one as she tries to quote back to Satan what God had said. But confusion and deception had already set in because she claims that God had forbidden her and Adam from even touching the fruit. Rather than desiring to obey God internally from her heart, the first legalistic external desires in history came into existence. By adding to God’s command, she was setting up in her heart a desire for rebellion rather than obedience.

**“But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it...you will be like [Him].’”**  
**(Genesis 3:4-5)**

**Point #3** - Satan’s “craftiness”, or skill in deception, presents a serious danger to those who do not have a heart which is passionate for the truth of God’s Word. After drawing Eve into his deception, Satan attacks God’s Word more fiercely with an outright denial of what God had said when he had told them that they would die. But he does not stop there because he immediately attacks God’s character by assigning a false, ulterior motive to God. Essentially, Satan says that God is arrogant and selfish. He claims that it is God’s desire to keep something good from Adam and Eve, even though they already had a perfect world and everything they could ever want. Even as God always provides for us everything we need, our sin leads us to question the goodness of God and disobey His Word. Satan’s tactics are often the same. He seeks to attack the character of God or even the character of those who communicate God’s Word in the hopes that people will reject His Word. In this case, Satan wants Eve to desire to be god herself instead of submitting to Christ as the only God.

**Point #4** - Despite the evil and deception of Satan, and his responsibility for his crime of manipulating Eve, it was not finally Satan’s deception that was the cause of her choice to disobey God and eat the fruit. It was Eve’s own questioning of God and her own sinful desires that led to her disobedience. Her fleshly desire for the good taste of the food, the delight of her eyes when looking on the beauty of the fruit, and the pride in her heart as she saw that it might make her wise all came together to lead her to take the fruit, eat it, and give it to her husband, Adam, to eat. By failing to lead his wife spiritually and allowing her to lead them both into this serious sin, Adam had failed, as well. Both Adam and Eve knew the command of God and had been led into deception by Satan and by their own sinful desires.

**Point #5** - The Apostle John gives us a warning to not be like Eve. We must not fall into sin through the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and pride of life. The lure of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil contained all three of these things, and these desires are not from God, but from the evil one. If the Word of God abides in us then we have overcome Satan and his lies and deception ultimately cannot touch us. Although we will continue to struggle with believing and obeying God’s Word, Christians have the power of Christ’s resurrection through the Holy Spirit and will continually be sanctified in truth, or grow to be more like Christ, who always knows and obeys the truth.

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**Point #6** - The eyes of Adam and Eve were opened when they ate the fruit. Instead of the false promise that Satan had made to them, their eyes were not opened to their own godhood, but instead their eyes were opened to sin. Where before they had been naked and not ashamed, now they were naked and ashamed. Everything they had been promised by Satan was a lie. By believing in lies and deception, they had led themselves to brokenness and sin. The first thing they did after eating the fruit was attempt to cover their own shame. But even their desire to cover their own shame with fig leaves and loincloths was a deception. Broken sinners can never truthfully cover their own shame. Only the work of Jesus Christ and His blood can cover our sin. After the shame of their disobedience, they heard a sound in the cool of the day which made them very afraid: the sound of God walking in the garden. So Adam and Eve, man and wife, tried to hide themselves because they were aware of the presence of God. When we have disobeyed God’s Word, we will often desire to hide from His presence, which we cannot do since He is present everywhere. For Christians, He is even present in our hearts through His Holy Spirit.

**Point #7** - God had allowed Adam and Eve to converse with the serpent and make their choice to disobey Him. We know this from many other Scriptures that tell us that God knows all things and is in control of all things. This is undeniable. So we must assume that God comes here to Adam and Eve to hold them accountable for their disobedience and sin. So it is no surprise that Adam was afraid of God now that he was aware of his nakedness and sin. When he became aware of the presence of God, Adam did not want to face him. When God inquires of Adam about his hiding, he explains to God why he was afraid, but did not offer any repentance for his sin. God is a patient and forgiving God, but He will not forgive if we will not humbly come to Him with a repentant heart filled with faith in His Son Jesus Christ.

**Point #8** - With all that took place, God now questions Adam and Eve about what had happened. God already knew that they had eaten the fruit, but like a father who questions their children about their disobedience, He gave them a chance to respond. Adam, in his response, seemingly tells the truth, but in fact provides another deception. Having been introduced by Satan to lies and deception, Adam now fails to take responsibility for his actions by laying that responsibility on Eve. Adam, as the spiritual leader in his marriage, was responsible to lead Eve to obey God’s Word. Instead of admitting to his failing, he blames Eve. Had Adam not, against the command of God, allowed Eve to lead spiritually, they would not have fallen into sin. Furthermore, Adam blames God for giving Eve to him, which is an ungrateful act on his part. When God gives us someone we are called to lead spiritually, or even someone to spiritually lead us, we should be grateful for this opportunity to love them and to serve Christ.

**Point #9** - Finally, God questions Eve about what it was that she had done. Even though Adam was the spiritual leader in this case, Eve was the one who bore her own blame for believing Satan’s deception and desiring the fruit so badly. Eve blames Satan for her disobedience, which is perhaps the greatest deception of all. Satan is a great deceiver and liar, but it is our own sin that causes us to reject God’s Word. By not taking responsibility for her own sin, Eve showed no repentance and rejected the mercy of God received through faith. In the end, because of her decision to engage the lie of Satan that she could become like God, she had become more like him than like God. Let us learn from what happened here, a true story, and not believe in lies or become deceivers ourselves like Satan.

**“Now Satan was more deceptive than any other creature that God had made. He said to Eve, ‘Did God actually say what you thought He said?’”**

**(Paraphrase of Genesis 3:1)**

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### **Application #1**

Lies and deception lead to ruin. This first episode of spiritual warfare pictures Satan, who was created by God and allowed to test Adam and Eve, coming and bringing the first lies and deception in a perfect world created by God with perfect truth. The Scripture tells us that it is impossible for God to lie (Numbers 23:19, Hebrews 6:18) and Satan is the exact opposite. Satan cannot do anything other than lie and deceive. So we are most like Christ when we tell the truth and most like Satan when we lie and deceive.

**“And the man and his wife were both naked and not ashamed...Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths...and [they] hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God”  
(Genesis 2:25, Genesis 3:7-8)**

### **Application #2**

The key to victory in spiritual warfare for the Christian is by the power of the Holy Spirit believe, trust, and obey God’s Word, especially the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to not believe anything that contradicts God’s Word or disobey His Word. Satan will try to engage us and get us to reject the Word of God in any way possible by deceiving us. He wants us to distrust God and His Word and disobey it.

### **Application #3**

Finally, in order to believe God’s Word and obey God’s Word we have to know God’s Word. When we are feeling most affected by lies and deception, that is when we need to be in the Word of God the most. Adam and Eve had direct access to God in the garden and they did not go to Him to affirm His truth. We have direct access to God through His Word and prayer. But we need both His Word and prayer together because by praying over His Word we will have true communication that we can speak and hear the truth He has to say.

### **Suggested Passages for Further Study**

Romans 5:12-21

1 Timothy 2:9-15