

## Lesson 11

### HOW SIN BEGAN

Have you ever wondered why man is so sinful? We begin in such innocence and by the time we are two years old we become tyrants demanding our own way and it only gets worse from there.

### IN THE GARDEN

When God made Adam out of the dust of the ground, God made him a perfect sinless being with authority over all the creatures in the garden and the responsibility to "dress" or take care of the garden; however, God made one rule for him: you may eat of any tree that you desire except one - the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In Genesis 2:17 we read, "in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Later when God took a rib from Adam and made Eve, Adam told her of God's command about the tree.

Now we meet a new creature in the garden: the serpent, who had been taken over by Satan, recently thrown from Heaven because of his rebellion against God and thrown to the earth. Satan, through the serpent, suggests to Eve, when she is alone, that God might not be fair to keep them from that one tree. In fact Satan suggests that she might become a god if she eats of that special tree. Eve believes the devils lie, eats of the forbidden fruit, loses her innocence, and gives the fruit to Adam so that he can join her. Adam joins her in her disobedience also losing his innocence.

Adam and Eve made clothes for themselves out of fig leaves so that they might be ready to face God when He would come to walk with them in the garden. But when God actually arrived, they hid and had to be called out by God who then confronted them about their sin and finally punished each of the participants for their part in this shameful deed. One very important thing that God did for them at this time was to clothe them in garments of skin from a newly sacrificed (by God in their behalf) animal (perhaps a lamb) thus not only providing adequate clothing for them that they would need when they had to leave the garden but also providing atonement and forgiveness for their sin.

### WHOSE FAULT WAS IT?

One would think that first of all the blame would rest on Satan. But a quick second would be Eve who was the first one to fall to Satan's temptation. Surprisingly, we find that the blame rests on Adam. The Scriptures clearly tell us in I Corinthians 15:22 "As in Adam all die" We also read in Romans 5:12 "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world." Why was Adam at fault? First of all Adam was put in charge of the garden: it was His responsibility to keep Satan out and to keep his wife safe. Secondly Adam did what he did deliberately: he was not deceived like Eve was. I Timothy 2:14 "Adam was not deceived." And thirdly and most importantly Adam was made the head of the human race, and since he was the head, his sin plunged us all into sin. He passed the sinfulness to his children through his blood, and every father passes his sinful nature to his children.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO US?

It means that babies are not born in innocence: they are born in sin. We read in Psalm 51:5 "Behold I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me." Every child will begin to show their sinfulness. Crying because they want their

own way is a sign that a very small child has a sinful nature. Pitching a fit and demanding his own way are indications that a two or three-year-old child has a sin nature. Lying, cheating, stealing, and etc. are indications that all of us are sinful by nature. People are not sinners because they sin: they are sinful by nature and therefore they sin. Even the horrible sin called murder is in every heart. Of course, not everyone murders or rapes, but all sin is in our wicked hearts and needs to be controlled. In Romans 7:18 the great Apostle Paul tells us "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing.

### **CAN THIS POWERFUL URGE TO SIN BE CONTROLLED?**

In II Corinthians 5:17 we read "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold all things are become new." When we put our faith and trust in Christ for our salvation, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us (the Spirit of Christ) and we have a new nature that loves righteousness and hates wickedness. Of course we still have the old sinful nature in us that fights against the new nature, so in Galatians 5:16 we read "Walk in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh." We must "feed" the new nature by reading the Word each day, being with God's people at every opportunity, praying, and meditating on God throughout the day. If we will feed the new nature, we will, by so doing, slowly starve the old nature. Though we will never be rid of the old nature until we get to Heaven, we can have the victory over sin each day.

**P.S. Don't forget to answer the questions and return them to us at [bmason6@bellsouth.net](mailto:bmason6@bellsouth.net). We will give you a grade.**

#### Questions for lesson 11

Put a check in front of the correct answer or fill in the blanks.

1. What was the only rule that God set up in the Garden of Eden?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How did Eve learn about this command? From A \_\_\_\_\_

3. Where had Satan been just before entering the garden?

He was in \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Satan suggests to Eve that if she will eat of that tree, she will become a g\_\_\_\_\_.

5. Before Adam and Eve sinned they were i \_\_\_\_\_ about their nakedness

6. According to the New Testament who was primarily at fault for their fall? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Who is the head of the human race? A \_\_\_\_\_

8. When people lie cheat and steal it is an indication that they are B \_\_\_\_\_ in S \_\_\_\_\_.

9. If we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the l \_\_\_\_\_ of the f \_\_\_\_\_.

10. How do we "feed" our new nature? Four ways.

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_