

# **Building on Biblical Foundations**

## **Genesis 2:18 - 3:19**

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### **“Innocence Lost”**

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#### **Genesis 2:18 – 3:20**

We stopped last week in Genesis 2:17 – and the two trees God planted in the Garden of Eden.

The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil.

This week we pick up in Genesis Chapter 2 verse 18:

*18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

*19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.*

*20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.*

*21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;*

*22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

*23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*

*24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

*25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

In this account we learn that woman is made as a counterpart to man, not only does she fulfill the need of man to not be alone, but she is taken from man, literally flesh of his

flesh. In this way God provides companionship and fellowship for the man. God also lays the foundation for marriage – that when the two – male and female – come together they are no longer two but become one.

What is this likened to? Again we see here a reflection of the nature of the Trinity – a profound mystery – as two beings become one.

We also see here God’s plan for marriage – in verse 24:

***24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.***

A man is called to leave the family of his youth and build a new life with his wife.

When (after) this is accomplished – the two become one flesh.

As the man leaves behind childish, adolescent ways - as he takes his place as an adult male in society – as he clings to his wife as his life partner, his companion, - his focus shifts away from his father’s house to his own household.

He becomes the provider of his own family, the protector of his wife, his children and the two – husband and wife – build a life together – without the undue burden of pleasing ones’ parents – but now of serving one another.

As the two follow the Lord’s instruction – they become one. As they build one life together - in the Lord - the are blessed with a oneness that is nothing shy of a miracle. And unified they shall stand through all of the storms they encounter – truly united they shall stand and divided they shall fall.

Entire sermons have been preached on this one verse. And we could linger here – perhaps it is best to revisit another time.

Before we move into Chapter 3, we should make note that they two were naked and unashamed. They knew no shame in their present condition. Tuck that thought away.

### ***CHAPTER 3***

***1. Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?***

***2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:***

***3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.***

*4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*

*5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

*6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

*7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

*8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.*

*9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?*

*10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*

*11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?*

*12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.*

*13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.*

*14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:*

*15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

*16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

*17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;*

*18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;*

*19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*

*20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.*

## **THE FALL OF MAN**

**Let's start with the serpent.**

Verse one – the serpent is described as more subtle than the other creatures. The serpent itself is not Satan – but Satan has inhabited the serpent and is using the serpent as his host home.

Notice that Eve is not alarmed by the serpent speaking to her. This would lead us to believe that communicating with animals was not something uncommon. Not only does she not question a serpent's ability to speak – she engages in conversation.

FIRST LESSON – never engage in conversation with the devil.

Next notice how the conversation goes – *“Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”*

This is interesting for two reasons –

**1. Who did God speak to when he gave instructions about which trees to eat?**

**Let's look at that. . .**

*2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.*

*2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:*

*2:17 “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

He was speaking to Adam. Where was Eve? We don't know. Was she even made yet? We don't know. But the devil poses his questioning to Eve. If Eve was not present when God gave the instruction, how would she know WHAT GOD SAID? Exactly what God said?

Have you ever been told something that someone else said? Maybe it was, “Mom said come in for dinner.” Maybe your brother left off the “right now” part of it.

And you dawdle. You come inside eventually and Mom is cross with you. Why? She wanted you in right away, but you took your time. You didn't get the whole message did

you? Perhaps Eve was not present to know the precise words the Lord spoke regarding the tree. Maybe she did not get the whole message, word for word.

**2. Let's look at the serpent's question: Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"**

***Is that what God said? They were not permitted to eat of every tree of the garden?***

God said "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:" They were given permission to eat of every tree, except for one. Can you see the subtle twist.

It is actually a TRUE statement that they shall not eat of EVERY tree of the garden, because every tree would include the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil – and the fruit from that tree was forbidden.

What is EVE's response? Does she quote God accurately? NO.

She Says: "***We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.***"

She gets a lot of it right – but she adds something – "***neither shall ye touch it,***"  
The serpent sees his opportunity – Eve misquotes the Lord – he uses her ignorance to pry open the ***door of doubt***. Look at what he says -

***"4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:***

***5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."***

First he tells her that God is lying, he tells her they won't die. But then he adds something more. Not only is God lying to them, but he is lying to keep something good from them. God is lying to deprive them of something that they can attain on their own, without him.

With these statements Satan accomplishes three things:

1. He causes Eve to doubt what she knew
2. He uses her doubt to create distrust of God's benevolence
3. He arouses her desire for independence

**Now if I were to ask you – apart from this account of the fall of Man – if these three things are evil what would you say?**

*Is it wrong to doubt what you remember? Or what you heard?*

*Is it evil to distrust God's goodness toward you?*

*Is it sin to want to be independent?*

How do you feel about Eve now? Are you beginning to see how crafty the devil is?

Eve is on the hook. . .

***“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”***

She sees the tree has fruit that is actually edible. . .and it is beautiful... remember God gave mankind an appreciation for beauty. . . and she takes the bait of Satan. . . eating this fruit will make her wise. . .and not wanting to deprive her husband of this gift. . . she shares it with Adam.

Lot’s of questions get raised here like where was Adam during this conversation with Satan? He is near enough when she eats, because she shares it with him. Why doesn’t he intervene? Is he also deceived? One would think so – he is either deceived as well or he is sitting idle and passive as his wife leads them both (and all humanity) into rebellion. We don’t know the answers – as they are not written here – what we have are “just the facts,” the naked facts. What happens next? What was the result of eating this forbidden fruit?

- 1. They are now AWARE of good and evil. Their eyes are opened – God was speaking truth – the fruit possessed the knowledge of good and evil. Now this knowledge was given to Adam and Eve.*
- 2. With that awareness their innocence was lost. Shame replaced innocence.*

They immediately recognize their nakedness and feel the need to cover themselves. Why do they feel naked now? They have been naked all along. What changed? Why do they now see their naked bodies as something to hide?

Hold that thought. . .

They hide from the Lord because they are naked. More assuredly I tell you they were EXPOSED. This is not just an absence of clothing – this is a need to hide their deed from the Lord.

Think about it like this. . . you undress to get into the shower. You stand naked in your bathroom. The door is closed and you are alone. Do you feel any shame? No. Change one little detail. You are standing naked about to get into the shower and your bathroom wall falls off as a parade is going by. You are now not only naked, but you are absolutely exposed. All eyes are on you. You immediately try to cover your nakedness and hide yourself.

Back to Adam and Eve . . . they become aware of their nakedness and they too try to hide.

*Of course there is no way to hide from the Lord. He knew.*

Next they begin the blame game . . . Adam blames Eve, Eve blames the serpent and all are cursed. But not just humanity, not just the serpent and Satan. . . the ground is cursed, the earth itself is cursed by God himself.

Why so great a curse? Adam and Eve disobeyed. The devil was crafty in tricking them. They were innocent and naïve. . . so why not just forgive their disobedience and start over? God is a God of forgiveness right?

*This was so much more than disobedience.*

The fall of Man . . . the primary cause was and still is Rebellion – but this rebellion came disguised as independence, remember how the serpent enticed Eve with the thought of gaining wisdom, wisdom for what? To be a god herself.

### **What is rebellion? What does it look like?**

- **It is the 3 year old shouting, “I do, I do, I do!!!”**
- **It’s the young person trading a college education, the support of a loving family, a faithful girlfriend or boyfriend for the empty promise of a seducing spirit.**
- **It’s all of us rejecting the provision of God and doing it our own way.**
  - Charting our own course and then asking God to bless it
  - Justifying our own decisions when they are contrary to His word
  - Rejecting His promises and chasing after things that glitter
  - Holding on to unforgiveness, selfishness, distrust, anger,
  - Believing lies instead of leaning on the Truth
  - Chasing fortune tellers, horoscopes, psychics, new age philosophies

What Adam and Eve did in the garden was to say we don’t believe you God. We don’t trust that you have told us everything. We don’t trust that you can provide for us better than we can. We don’t trust you. We can do this for ourselves – as good as you.

Why was Satan cast out of Heaven? I’m not going to give more than a quick minute because he deserves none of our attention – ever. But to help us understand the enormity of what he did when he deceived Adam and Eve. . . he did the very thing to them, that caused him and his angels to be cast out of heaven. . .

We know that Satan has been expelled from Heaven because Jesus told us so . . . ***Luke 10:18: “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”***

Why did he fall? Because it was not enough to be the most beautiful of all creation – he wanted to be God and rule the universe.

### **Isaiah 14:12-15**

***12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!***

*13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:*

*14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*

*15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.*

**Ezekiel 28:13-15**

*13: Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.*

*14: Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.*

*15: Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.*

**He used this same temptation on Adam and Eve:**

Did God really say? Have you ever heard that serpent whispering in your ear?

Did God really say he would heal you? Did God really say you are safe under the shadow of his wings? Always safe? What about that time the roof was torn off, or your car crashed into that truck, or you broke your leg sliding on the ice? Where was God then? See you can't trust him.

Did God really say he would provide for you?

What about when you lost your job? Or the company declared bankruptcy? Or your parents lost the farm, or the family home?

Did God really say he would forgive ALL of your sins? Remember them no more – as far as the east is from the west?

What about when you lied? Or stole? Or cussed? Or committed adultery? Or killed someone, or many someones? What about after you repented and then did it again? And Again?

Doubt crouches at the door, we let it in, entertain it for a while and then it replaces faith and trust with distrust. . . and when we distrust we don't rely on the Lord, we don't believe the promises, - maybe they are not for me? Maybe they are not for this generation?



Before you know it you are in full rebellion. Doing it your way because it's the only way you can trust. You are the only one you can trust.

Jesus said the we must enter the Kingdom of God like little children.

What does that mean?

It means we trust the Father the way a small child trusts his mother or his father. The way Abby trusts all of us.

Adam and Eve were naïve in the Garden. They were as innocent as Abby.

Abby trust us completely. We have never given her a reason not to. But let's day Abby is in swing and Amanda is pushing her – Abby is completely relaxed. She is giggling and happy. She has no reason to fear or distrust. Then suddenly the swing's chain breaks and she comes crashing down. And maybe when she falls she gets injured. Nothing serious but it hurts.

Now she is such a small child that she doesn't understand that the swing is NOT an extension of her mother. So now she not only distrusts swings but she also distrusts her mother. Amanda did not cause the swing to fall. That was an independent act outside of Amanda. But Abby can't understand this.

Trust is built upon a series of interactions. The concept has a lot in common with reliability, even predictability. When we trust something we can rely on it.

How then do we trust an invisible God? How do we trust after a lifetime of broken swings? How can we return to the innocence of a small child?

That is the challenge. We must become as trusting as a small child. We must submit our ways to His ways. We are told to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.- VERSE – how? By allowing ourselves to be washed in the Word of God. By spending time in HIS presence – in prayer, praising him, thanking him, adoring him in worship.

This is not instant. We cannot trust in an instant. This takes time. It takes intention.

To remain without trust is to remain in rebellion to God. Rebellion is sin. Rebellion will not come near a holy God.

This is vitally important to understand. Church is not about friendship, fellowship, prayer, singing, even reading and studyin the Word of God – it is about learning how to trust him again – as we did in the Garden before all of this mess.

The sin of Adam and Eve was to say to God we don't trust you. They rejected him. They scorned him. They dishonored his Glory.

The penalty was eternal separation from God. Hell. Eternal torment.

But even from the beginning God has a plan to restore the fellowship with mankind. It would come from the seed of the woman. . . Jesus would provide a way back.

But this gift is not unconditional. There are conditions to this restoration. While salvation is by grace, it is not free.

It requires faith. It requires trust. These are indeed conditions to be met. Without faith it is impossible to please God.

So what should be our heart's cry? Lord may I have the faith – the faith even as small as a mustard seed – to trust you.

The scriptures say that even the demons believe in Jesus – that won't save them from hell.

There is a difference in believing in Jesus and BELIEVING JESUS.

If we believe the things he says, if we put our trust in him wholly, if we submit to his plan, his ways, if we continue to abide in him, we will be transformed by the renewing of our minds, we will become like children once again – innocent in our faith, we will be reconciled back into fellowship with the Lord, and we will indeed live forever.

This was never meant to be a passive faith. This faith in Jesus is active. It is alive. It is living and breathing. It will require all that you are.

God created us for love. He created men and women to be in fellowship with him, to be in relationship with him. That is what was lost in the garden. It wasn't merely an act of disobedience, it was a rejection of his love, a rejection of the intimacy that he offered. Adam and Eve chose to be like God, to reject him, to reject his loving care and in that moment – like a three year old child – they said, "I do, I do."

Toward the end of his ministry, the apostle Paul penned the following words for the church at Corinth. He got it. He understood that the goal was restoration of the love relationship we lost in the garden. It is not about rules, or traditions, or service or even self-denial. This is always been about relationship; a love relationship.

### ***1 Corinthians 13***

***"1 If I speak in the tongues[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.***

***2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.***

**3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.**

**4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.**

**5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.**

**6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.**

**7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.**

**8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.**

**9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.**

**11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.**

**12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.**

**13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”**

Love is the only thing that truly conveys the heart of God toward man. How do we know this?

**John 3:16. . . For God so loved [us, you, me, people, all people, good church people, despicable ruthless people]**

**the world that he gave [sacrificed, allowed to be betrayed, rejected, beaten, violently abused, stripped naked, crucified]**

**his one and only Son, [so] that whoever [that means ANY one] believes [not just in him, but actually believes the things he says] shall not perish but have eternal life [be restored to God the Father forever].**

Jesus said the world will know we belong to him by our love . . . for one another . . . by the way we love; how we love each other, how we love those around us, how we love not only our friends and family but our enemies as well.

Love surely covers a multitude of sin and in the Garden on that fateful day it was love that covered the shame of Adam and Eve. It was love that provided a way back. We will look at that more closely next week.