



I. Genesis 3:1-24

II. What is sin?

- A. *“Sin is any personal lack of conformity to the moral character of God, or the law of God. Sin is a disposition of the heart, it is a bent. You sin by thinking evil, speaking evil, acting evil, or omitting good. You sin when you do, say, think, or when you don’t do, say, or think what God commands you to. It’s living as if there was no law of God. It’s calling your own shots. Sin is the King of humanity, it is rebellion and unrighteousness, it is ingratitude, it is God’s would-be murderer, and it is an incurable disease. The evil of sin is not so much seen in the millions that are damned by it as it is seen in the fact that Christ had to die for it. It cost the blood of God to conquer sin.”* (John MacArthur)
- B. *“Sin is like a cruel taskmaster that victimizes and controls us (John 8:34). It captures and overtakes us.”* (Ed Welch)
- C. Jeremiah 2:12-13: *“Be appalled, O heavens at this: be shocked, be utterly dismayed....for my people have committed two great evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and dug their own cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”*
- D. Scripture also describes sin as:

- 1- ...“crouching at the door” with a “desire for you” (Gen. 4:7)
- 2- ... a predator with a strategy for destruction...it gives Satan an opportunity to gain \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives (Eph. 4:27) as he “prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).
- 3- ... a taskmaster that seeks to \_\_\_\_\_ us (Romans 6).
- 4- The Christian’s internal civil war is active, and while the Holy Spirit battles against our remaining sin, our remaining sin \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Gal. 5:17).
- 5- Heb. 3:12-15 warns all Christians to \_\_\_\_\_ their hearts because sin has a deteriorating effect on us.

E. From the second a baby is conceived in the womb, \_\_\_\_\_ is waiting to greet him.

- 1- We humans are drawn to evil and we find the pull of sin \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2- We can’t rescue ourselves from this sin. The answer has to come from \_\_\_\_\_ of us.
- 3- Sin is not something that other people struggle with. Fighting sin doesn’t start “out there” or “with her/him”; it starts in \_\_\_\_\_.

III. What about the devil?

A. He is the serpent who committed the first sin.

- 1- God hadn’t thrown the serpent on its belly yet because he hadn’t been cursed yet; most commentaries suggest it was a cunning and fast moving beast of the field...a dragon-like creature.

2- He is also called "Satan" and "\_\_\_\_\_."

B. He IS:

1- ...our \_\_\_\_\_.

2- ...possessed or inhabited by Satan, by the devil, which literally means "slanderer" or "accuser."

3- ...a \_\_\_\_\_, subtle, crafty, and a deceiver of the whole world.

4- ...the great dragon, a powerful terrifying destructive beast out to destroy.

5- ...a roaring lion, ready to devour and engulf anybody that he can into his evil system.

6- ...the evil one, who is not even content with his own evil, but wanting to \_\_\_\_\_ everybody else.

7- ...a \_\_\_\_\_, seducing men to evil.

8- ...also called "Beelzebul, the prince of demons," or "Beelzebub."

9- ...the "god of this age," and "the prince of the power of the air."

10- ... "the evil one" and "the ruler of this world."

11-...a dominator of every man who lives in the world \_\_\_\_\_ from God.

C. What is he NOT?

- 1- He is not like God.
- 2- He's not self-existent and he's not \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3- He's not omnipotent....he is not \_\_\_\_\_(1 John 4:4).
- 4- He is not omniscient... \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5- He's not going to be \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev. 12:9).
- 6- He is not Creator. He is \_\_\_\_\_.

D. What are Satan's goals?

- 1- Satan wants you to doubt the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- 2- Satan wants you to doubt the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and usurp the authority of God.

E. The implications of verse 6

- 1- Eve has decided that the fruit is not evil but good. God had already made the decision about what was good, but here Eve decides for \_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 2:16). She had the lust of the flesh, the eyes, and the pride of life.
- 2- They ate, and instead of getting all those things Satan promised, they did not escape God's sovereignty and \_\_\_\_\_.

- 3- When the fruit was eaten, Adam “was not deceived.” Eve was truly deceived, but Adam willfully chose to sin: it was through Adam that death entered the human race and man was separated from God.
- 4- *“The fundamental deception of Satan is the lie that obedience [to God] can never bring you happiness.”* (RC Sproul)

#### IV. Two questions that need answering

##### A. Question 1: Satan’s really evil, but am I?

- 1- Paul says the greatest sinner I know is \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim. 1:15).
- 2- An example from my life...
- 3- Every human being has a nature that is drawn to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4- I inherited my sinfulness from the \_\_\_\_\_ of Adam when he deliberately disobeyed God in the garden; at that moment the whole human race was plunged into the state of being in bondage to evil and death.

##### B. Question 2: If Adam and Eve were good, like everything else He pronounced good, how did evil get here on planet earth? Example from Acts 4:27-28.

- 1- What did Herod, Pilate, the Gentiles and the people of Israel do? Because what they did, they did “whatever God’s hand and plan was.”
- 2- It is not sin in God to will that sin happen.
- 3- God is for us in Christ and therefore this sovereignty is great news. Jonathan Edwards said, *“The crucifying of Christ was a great sin; and as man committed it, it was exceedingly hateful and highly provoking to God. Yet upon many great considerations it was the will of God that it should be done....and even the free actions of men are subject to God’s disposal.”*

V. Some points to ponder....

- A. God has always been a God of holy justice and holy wrath and holy vengeance and holy mercy. How could He \_\_\_\_\_ these to His people if there was no evil? His great grace to me is that much sweeter because of the great evil in my wicked heart.
- B. How could God progressively \_\_\_\_\_ you in your day to day life until He sends you to Glory, chiseling you and making you more and more like His Son, and how could you be humbled and come to repentance if there was no sin?
- C. Every particular evil that God in His sovereignty allows/ordains/purposes.... however you want to phrase it, has particular godly and good purpose behind it.

1- Genesis 50:19-20

2- Charles Spurgeon wrote: *"I believe that every particle of dust that dances in the sunbeam does not move an atom more or less than God wishes – that every particle of spray that dashes against the steamboat has its orbit, as well as the sun in the heavens – that the chaff from the hand of the winnower is steered as the stars in their courses. The creeping of an aphid over the rosebud is as much fixed as the march of the devastating pestilence – the fall of . . . leaves from a poplar is as fully ordained as the tumbling of an avalanche."*

3- God is sovereign over all. This includes \_\_\_\_\_.

4- With God who created and ordained all things – even evil and calamity – for His glory, there is no such thing as "\_\_\_\_\_" or "\_\_\_\_\_."

5- We must conclude that His decision to allow \_\_\_\_\_ to exist in our world is a good decision.