

Genesis 3: When Sin Entered the World

01-22-18 PM

Genesis 3 is one of the most important chapters in the book of Genesis (indeed, perhaps the Old Testament), as it documents the entrance of sin into the world, and the consequences thereof. There are numerous references to this event in the New Testament, many pointing to the necessity of the death of Christ to remedy the situation introduced there. Adam's sin is parallel to the sin of every person who follows him; it is a choice we make in an innocent condition with eternal consequences.

Satan

The chapter begins introducing us to the Serpent, who is Satan (Rev. 20:2). Let us first be clear to say that we are told very little about the background of Satan; Scriptures do not call him a fallen angel or a created being, although both may explain his origin. We are told that he has authority (Heb. 2:14), and is a prince of the power of the air and the god of this world, both statements which correspond to the idea that he dwells NOT in hell, but here on earth (see also Job 1:7, 1 Pet. 5:8). As one with authority he is not to be reviled (Jude 8-9), but he is to be resisted (James 4:7).

Satan's approach here and even today is threefold: he begins with a lie about death (consider John 8:44); then he switches the meaning of words (sin becomes wisdom), and finally he reviles God as the agent of evil. This tools is still in effect. Here are some examples:

Abortion

1. Make what is clearly evil not seem so evil. We will hear about population control fears of the 1950s through 80s, about rape and incest (in truth, less than 5% of all abortions). We will hear men say "I hate abortion too..... but it is necessary now rather than later"
2. He will inject code-words. Pro-Abortion sounded too harsh; . Everyone is for "rights", lets invent "reproductive rights". An abortion becomes a procedure. An unborn child became a fetus. Pro-Choice is born, defending the right to choose
3. Reverse who was wrong. Pro-Life organizations were portrayed as violent DECADES before anyone was ever killed. Media, fiction all portrayed pro-life people as dangerous. Pro-life people are stereotyped as fundamentalist fruitcakes with no education.

Pre-Marital sex

1. Make it not so evil by calling it "making love" and by saying "everyone does it"
2. Use code word like consenting adults, co-habitation
3. Reverse who is morally wrong by insulting the "puritanical persons" who say it is wrong, or mocking those who value virginity

Homosexuality

1. Make it not so evil by saying that you are born this way, or that you cannot help it Make it seem like a "civil rights" issue
2. Use code words like alternative lifestyle, gay, gender orientation, or Tolerance; diversity
3. Reverse who is morally wrong, use words like homophobia, intolerance, or narrow minded bigots

Pornography

1. Make it not so evil by lies, say that there is no real difference between pornography and art, or that it really does not hurt anyone, or that everyone does it.
2. Use code words like adult bookstores, adult entertainment; call it free speech, freedom, rights.
3. Reverse who is wrong by saying that those opposed to pornography are really about censorship or banning books

The Tree

Satan manipulates the view of Tree of Knowledge, which is the main representation of the world in the Garden. There is an important point in this: there are three appeals that the tree has which we are told in 1 John 2:15-16 represent all aspects of worldliness; they also represent the temptation of Jesus "in all ways as we are".

Adam & Eve	Jesus in the Wilderness	1 John 2
The woman saw that the tree was good for food	Suggestion: turn stones into bread to end hunger	The lust of the flesh
It was a delight to the eyes	A view of the kingdoms of the world ("All these things I will give You, if You worship me.")	The lust of the eyes
It was desirable to make one wise	On the temple peak, jump and let the angels carry Him down	The pride of life

What is interesting is to see that in Genesis 2:9, the other trees in the Garden were available to satisfy this desire. Yet Satan managed to appeal to Eve's desires to sin.

Adam and Eve

Even was seduced mainly by her own desires. James 1 speaks about seeking wisdom. Then it points out that we are not tempted by God, but by our own desires. While Satan tempted Eve, it was her own desires that caused her to sin. When God confronted Adam, He pointed out that Adam's sin was not to refuse his wife. Here is a totality of sinful behavior: weakness against others and acting on desire.

Thus Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden.