



Jesus taught His disciples about a spiritual dimension of reality in which there are angels and demons. Two Sundays ago, we learned why He taught His disciples about this reality.

- He wanted His disciples to understand the source of evil in the world.
- He wanted His disciples to understand the devil's power in this world.
- He wanted His disciples to be on their guard.
- He wanted His disciples to understand the devil's strategy.
- He wanted His disciples to know how to overcome the devil.
- He wanted His disciples to be warriors.
- He wanted unbelievers to know who they were following.

Last Sunday, we learned about demon possession. We learned that Satan does not just want to tempt people to do evil. He wants to control people. He wants to use people he controls to kill, steal, and destroy. He is not like a drug dealer. He is like the leader of a drug cartel.

This morning I want us to learn how the devil gains control of people's souls.

To accomplish this, I want us to begin this study in Genesis 2:15-18 and Genesis 3:1-24

#### Genesis 2:15-18

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.  
16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;  
17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."  
18 And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."  
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#### Genesis 3:1-24

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"  
2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat 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 has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"  
4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.  
5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.  
7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

8 And they heard the sound 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 among the trees of the garden.

9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

13 And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.

19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

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

21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" —

23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

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### 1. Satan gained control of mankind by tempting them to do that which God forbids.

This story is the first spiritual battle between mankind and Satan. God created Adam and Eve and gave them dominion over the earth and every living thing upon the earth.

Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

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Adam and Eve were the first rulers and caretakers of the earth under God.

God gave them specific instructions for the way they ruled. In those instructions, there was one tree in the garden that Adam and Eve were to avoid eating the fruit thereof.

The tree itself was not evil or the source of evil. The tree was good. Everything God created in the beginning was good.

Everything God created revealed His glory.

Ps 19:1-2

19 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.

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Job 12:7-9

7 "But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; And the birds of the air, and they will tell you;

8 Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; And the fish of the sea will explain to you.

9 Who among all these does not know That the hand of the Lord has done this,

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Romans 1:20

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

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The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was not any different. It revealed the glory of God. But unlike other trees it was not created by God to provide sustenance for Adam and Eve. It served as a perpetual reminder to Adam and Eve that He was God and they were not. It reminded them that God had knowledge they did not have. It reminded them that they should trust God to determine how they should live. It reminded them that they were dependent upon God. It was good!

Because Adam and Eve were created in the image and likeness of God, they were created with freewill.

From the beginning of creation, mankind was given a freewill to either trust God and follow Him or live independently from God. From the beginning, if they chose to trust God and follow Him, they would be blessed. If they chose not to trust God and they chose to live independently of God, they would be cursed.

Satan knew if he could lead them to live independently of God, he could control them. So, he tempted them to do that which God forbids.

Satan gains control of mankind by tempting us to do that which God forbids.

## 2. Satan gained control of mankind by attacking their faith in God.

Satan used deception to break down their trust in God. The deception was twofold.

- God would not judge them if they disobeyed Him. (Genesis 3:4)

There would not be any painful consequences.

- God was withholding something from them that was good for them. (Genesis 3:5)

He led them to believe it would make them wise like God. Life would be better for them if they lived independently of God.

Satan attacked their faith in God's justice and their faith in God's love.

Satan's attack on the faith of Adam and Eve was successful. They believed the lie rather than trusting God.

Adam and Eve lived in a perfect environment. We do not. Because of the trials we experience, we are much more vulnerable to Satan's temptations. The trials and sufferings we experience in this fallen world cause us to question the justice and the love of God.

Satan gains control of us by attacking our faith in God.

### 3. Satan gained control of mankind by separating them from God.

Satan knew that what happened to him, would happen to them and their descendants.

Revelation 12:7-9

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

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It is easier to lead a teen-age girl into sex trafficking when she is rebelling against the authority of her parents.

By leading Adam and Eve to rebel against God and separating them from God, Satan knew he would be successful in gaining control of their souls.

Satan gains control of mankind by separating us from God.

### 4. Satan gained control of mankind by causing them to experience shame.

Adam and Eve sinned, and they immediately experienced shame. Shame was the very first ungodly feeling that Adam and Eve had ever experienced.

Shame is a painful feeling of humiliation. It is being disappointed in one's self.

It can be caused by a consciousness of wrongdoing, foolish behavior, or personal failure. It can also be caused by the opinions of other people.

- Shame can be very destructive to our soul.

Unresolved **shame** can lead to feelings of depression, anxiety, fear, and low self-esteem.

**Unresolved shame can lead to self-hate.** Self-hate is the belief that, I am flawed, inadequate, wrong, bad, unimportant, undeserving, or not good enough.

- Shame can be very destructive to our behavior.

Shame can be such a powerful emotion that it can become one of the chief motivations in our life.

- a. Shame can drive us to constantly perform for the acceptance and approval of others.
- b. Shame can become the lens through which we see others and ourselves.
- c. Shame can cause us to do horrific things to ourselves and others. (Deception; abandonment; betrayal; theft; addiction; murder; suicide)

Shame is like a stronghold in our soul that Satan can use to control or seriously influence the course of our life.

Adam and Eve tried to cover their shame by...

- Covering their nakedness
- Hiding from God
- Blaming others for their failure

Secular therapists are very aware of the problem of shame. There are many self-help books written about it by therapists. They try to help their patients overcome shame by helping them identify the problem and then by guiding them to reconstruct how they view themselves. They advise people to remove themselves from toxic relationships with people that cause shame.

The problem with this secular approach is that they contradict what God says about the human race.

The biblical truth is because of the fall of mankind, all people are flawed, inadequate, wrong, bad, unimportant, and underserving. The bible calls the human race sinners, slaves to sin, enemies of God, fools, unprofitable, corrupt, unclean, slaves of corruption, workers of iniquity, evil, and wicked.

The secular approach does not offer a spiritual solution to the fallenness of man. They lie to people to try and make themselves believe differently about themselves.

It is interesting that God in His love immediately provided a temporary solution for the shame of Adam and Eve. He killed an animal and covered their nakedness.

This act of God foreshadowed what God would eventually do solve mankind's problem with shame.

Jesus provided the only way for us to overcome shame.

1. [Jesus satisfied the justice of God.](#)

[Acts 13:38-39](#)

[38 Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins;](#)

39 and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

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Shame can be caused by the knowledge of guilt. We are created in the image of God. Because we are created in the image of God, we have a moral conscience that knows right from wrong. Our conscience condemns us when we do what is wrong. This condemnation causes feelings of shame.

Our moral conscience condemns us the most when we are reminded that there is a God, He is holy, and He is righteous. This is a problem. All of creation reminds us that there is a God, that He is Holy, and that He is righteous. Then, there are preachers of the Word of God.

To cleanse our conscience of this source of shame, Paul said, Jesus justified us. Jesus experienced in Himself the condemnation we deserve. Jesus bore the guilt of our sins. His death can give us the assurance that God does not condemn us. The word justified means to render innocent or not guilty.

By justifying us before a holy God, Jesus removed the reason for us to condemn ourselves when we are reminded that there is a God, He is Holy, and He is righteous.

Jesus justified us!

## 2. Jesus sanctifies sinful men.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived.

Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

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Shame is also caused by the knowledge that we are flawed. We know we are sinners by nature and not just by choice. It does not matter how well we perform or how much we succeed, we know we fall short of the glory of God. We know we are not what God intended for us to be. We are reminded that we are flawed every time we fail.

But Paul said that those who are justified through Jesus are also sanctified by Jesus. (verse 11) To be sanctified means to be made holy and righteous like God.

Jesus said this change in us would be caused by being born again of the Spirit. (John 3) Jesus promised that He would unite His Spirit with the spirit of mankind. He said this new birth would change our identity. He said we would become a child of God. (John 1:12; Romans 8:16) Peter said to the church of Jesus that they were partakers of God's divine nature. (2 Peter 1:4)

Paul said to the church of Jesus at Corinth who you were and what you were has ceased to exist. Paul said to the church of Jesus at Rome that they died with Jesus. (Romans 6:8) In other words, they were flawed, inadequate, wrong, bad, unimportant, undeserving, and not good enough. They were by nature fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, covetous,

drunkards, revilers, or extortioners. You could add to that list murderers, rapists, and pedophiles. But Paul said what was true, is not true any longer! He told the church at Corinth that they were new creations in Christ.(2 Corinthians 5:17) He said they were the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.(2 Corinthians 5:21) He told the church at Rome that they were raised with Christ to walk in newness of life just as Christ was raised from the dead to walk in newness of life.(Romans 6:4) He told the church that Jesus's life in them should change their view of who they were and free them from shame.(Romans 8:1-2)

They did not need a secular therapist to help them identify the problem they had with shame and reconstruct how they view themselves. They did not need to remove themselves from toxic relationships with people that cause shame.

They just needed to believe Jesus!

Paul called false ideas that we believe, strongholds in our souls.

[2 Corinthians 10:3-5](#)

[3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.](#)

[4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,](#)

[5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God,](#)

[bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,](#)

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If they believed the gospel of Jesus Christ, it would destroy the stronghold of shame in their soul.

It would free them from Satan's power over them.

When Satan or anyone else tried to shame them, they could resist by saying, in Jesus name, that is not true.

When they were tempted to do shameful things, they could resist by saying, in Jesus name, that is not who I am.

Jesus provided the only way for us to overcome shame.

If Satan has gained control of your life, Jesus came and died to set you free. Will you receive Him?

If you have received Jesus for the forgiveness of sin and there is still a stronghold of shame in your soul, you need to change your view of yourself based on the gospel of Jesus Christ. You need to repent of your unbelief in the gospel of Jesus Christ and put on the Lord Jesus Christ. You need to resist the devil and be the mighty warrior in Jesus that He has created you to be!

Will you repent for your unbelief in the gospel of Jesus Christ? Will you be a mighty warrior!

[Who I Am In Christ!](#)

[IN CHRIST...](#)

- [I am chosen and adopted by God. \(Romans 8:15; Gal. 4:4-5\)](#)
- [I am a child of God, a member of His family. \(John 1:12\)](#)

- I am a citizen of God's Holy nation, His eternal Kingdom. (Eph. 2:19)
- I am an heir to God through Jesus Christ. (Gal. 4:7)
- I am seated with Christ by His throne in the heavenly places. (Eph. 2:6)
- I am a royal priest in God's household, a minister of God. (I Peter 2:9)
- I am the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. (I Cor. 6:19)
- I am one with the Holy Spirit of God. (I Cor. 6:17) His righteous nature is my nature. (2 Peter 1:4); His mind is my mind. (1 Cor. 2:16); His purpose is my purpose. (Eph. 3:10-11); His fruit is my fruit. (Gal. 5:22-23).
- I am a saint, a holy one of God. (Eph. 1:1)
- I am gifted by the Holy Spirit. (I Cor. 12:7).
- I am a significant member of the church, the body and bride of Christ. (I Cor. 12:12-14)
- I am called by God to make disciples for Jesus Christ, my life has purpose. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:16)