



Searching for Good

Genesis 3:1-13 | Ryan Pfeiffer | Feb 23, 2025

How can the world be so good... yet so... dangerous, full of greed, violence...
Genesis teaches God infused the world w/ His goodness... 15X's Ch 1-3.

That goodness is based on living in a perfect relationship with

- God... walking and talking and obeying God's word.
- Self... no shame... no death
- Each... oneness... united... deeply connected.
- Creation... we govern... care, shepherd God's creation.

This is a goodness based on God's terms.

Represented by the tree of good and evil. Gen 2:16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.

Represents trusting God's terms for that goodness. It's in his Hands/ His Will

FOCUS. Today's passage helps us understand 1) How Evil tempts us away from God's goodness 2) How God seeks to bring us back to his goodness.

HOW EVIL TEMPTS US. READ vss 1-4

Who is this serpent? Rev 12:9 that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.
We need to understand that the Bible/ Jesus take Satan as a literal created being... a malignant will, a dark animating force of evil... at work in the world

Jesus says... "He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." — John 8:44.

His principle weapon are lies aimed at dislodging us from the truth of God.
He deceives Eve in 3 moves READ Vss 6-7...

John Mark Comer summarizes it well... "Notice that the serpent came to Eve with a simple yet evocative idea (not a weapon): 1) God's not as good or as wise as he claims to be. 2) He's holding out on you. 3) If you seize autonomy from God and do your own thing with me, you'll be better off. —Live No Lies. 63.

In a way this is the lie at the heart of all other lies...

- 1) You can't trust God but you can trust yourself, your own wisdom and desires.
- 2) I can define goodness by what feels good to me and let others do the same.

"We sin because we believe a lie about what will make us happy." John Mark Comer, Live No Lies 61.

[John 14:23-24](#) Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.



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GOD'S RESCUE PLAN. Read vss 8-13.

WE ARE ALL HIDING.

The result of seeking out goodness apart from God is shame. Shame is the need to hide our true self... from others, self, God. This is why the Bible says that apart from God we are LOST.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Christopher West— The tempter is always trying to divert our desire away from God's designs in order to keep us from our destiny. Fill These Hearts. 119.

GOD IS SEARCHING FOR US?

Vs 9 But the LORD God called to the man, 'Where are you?' As if God doesn't know!
So why ask? In fact God asks 3 questions (vs 9,11,13)

Before God can heal us... we have to come out of hiding... we have to begin to be honest...
We need to be honest with our doubts...our questions about God... our hurts and disappointments...

[John 14:6](#) Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

Jesus is the way back to God's goodness
Jesus is the truth about God and ourselves
Jesus is the life... through his death and resurrection... eternal life...