

**Alan Jacobs:** *We have inherited from our first father not just a debt, but also a compulsion, a compulsion to reenact his alienation of himself from God.*

- i. Romans 3:9-18
- ii. That is the irony of sin: it promises freedom but delivers enslavement. (John 8:34)

#### IV. The Solution

- A. *If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.* John 8:36
- B. The work of Jesus on the cross addressed each of these: death, guilt, and corruption.
- C. See also Romans 3:22-24 & Ephesians 2:1-10

#### LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Does the statement by Jacobs “...of all the religious teachings I know, none...generates as much hostility as the Christian doctrine we call original sin.” fit with your experience? Explain.
- How was the test, as it is described in Genesis 2:16-17, “rigged in man’s favor”? What might this say about the fall?
- In what ways does the text of Genesis reveal the generosity of God toward man in all that was done? How does the deceiver attack this notion? How does all temptation find its root here?
- In what ways does Adam and Eve eating from the tree reveal a rejection of God as the source of wisdom and truth and supplanting Him with *self*?
- What three things did we discuss that we inherit from Adam because of his sin? How does the death of Jesus overcome them?
- Why do you think people are offended by the doctrine of sin? Is it the *offense of the Gospel*? ...the starting point of the Gospel?

#### Genesis: Truth for Understanding Our World (Part 6)

Jerry Cisar — October 18, 2015

Text: Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-7

#### Introduction

**Alan Jacobs:** *Any moderately perceptive and reasonably honest observer of humanity has to acknowledge that we are remarkably prone to doing bad things—and, more disturbingly, things we acknowledge to be wrong.*

- A. What accounts for the evil that exists in the human race? Where did it come from?
- B. Preaching about sin and human sinfulness is not easy because we resist it.

**Millard Erickson:** *As important as the doctrine of sin is, it is not an easy topic to discuss in our day. ... We do not like to think of ourselves as bad or evil persons. Yet the doctrine of sin teaches us that this is what we are by nature.*

**Jacobs:** *“...of all the religious teachings I know, none...generates as much hostility as the Christian doctrine we call 'original sin.'”*

- C. If we want to understand ourselves, if we want to understand mankind, we must understand the biblical teaching about sin.

#### I. The Test

- A. Two things should not be missed:
  - i. This “test” could not have been any easier to pass.
  - ii. This temptation could not have been weaker.

*To truly understand this test, we have to start with the truth that God was not withholding, that He was good and kind. If one starts with the natural bent to blame God he/she will fail to understand ourselves.*

## B. The Serpent

### II. The Temptation

#### A. Adam and Eve existed in a state of grace.

##### i. The *Tree of Life*

##### ii. The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

a) Hebrews 5:14 ESV: *But solid food is for the **mature**, for those who have their **powers of discernment trained** by constant practice to **distinguish/discern good from evil.***

b) Was the ban temporary until they had demonstrated the wisdom of obedience to God? Or would the ban have always been there. We can't know.

#### B. Breaking God's command was a rejection of God as the source of wisdom and truth.

##### i. *The nature of their disobedience, became our nature.*

**Cornelius Plantinga Jr.:** "... people who think of human beings as their own centers and lawgivers reject the whole idea of our dependence on a superior being. Indeed, they find this idea entirely distasteful. To them the proposal that we ought to worship someone who is better than we are, that we ought to study this person's will and then bend our lives to it, that we ought to confess our failures and assign life's blessings to him—to them, the notion that we ought to take this posture toward anybody else at all is humili-

*atingly undemocratic, an offense to human dignity and pride. Not incidentally, the pride that resists God and God's superiority also resists objective moral truth. For such truth — the assertion that some acts are right and some wrong regardless of what we think about the matter—stands against the freedom of human beings to create their own values, to make up moral truth as they go along."*

##### ii. How do we see this manifest in our culture?

**Colson/Pearcy, How Shall we Now Live?**, "Americans have achieved what modernism presented as life's great shining purpose: individual autonomy, the right to do what one chooses. Yet this has not produced the promised freedom; instead it has led to the loss of community and civility, to kids shooting kids in schoolyards, to citizens huddling in gated communities for protection. We have discovered that we cannot live with the chaos that inevitably results from choice divorced from morality."

### III. The Consequences

#### A. **You shall surely die.** Physical death or spiritual death?

##### i. Shimei (1 Kings 2:36-46)

##### ii. The effect of sin was death... and death effected mankind both spiritually and physically.

#### B. **Death** is passed down to all of us because of Adam's sin. (Romans 5:12, 15)

#### C. **Guilt** was pass down to all of us because of Adam's sin. (Romans 5:18)

#### D. We are all **corrupt** in our nature because of Adam's sin. (Romans 5:19)