

A Little Wrong and a Big Problem

Genesis 3



From safe to dangerous

What safe situations can become dangerous?

The world was a perfect place

Adam & Eve were vulnerable without danger

Everything was perfectly good!

How did good things become bad?

Over and over again...

Pray: "Correct me"

When trouble begins...

The book of Genesis = Beginnings

The only ancient origin story where humanity goes from paradise to judgment

What happened?

Questions that matter to us that the text largely ignores

How could a serpent speak? How did the serpent (or Satan) become evil in a good creation? What would have happened if Adam & Eve never sinned? Was sin inevitable? Adam's roles? (human, man, husband, head) ...

Genesis 2

God's beautiful design was to make people mutually dependent:

Adam: guard

Eve: fit helper

"Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame." Genesis 2:25

Genesis 3

1-7: The "Fall" (the first sin)

8-19: God's judgment

20-24: The early expressions of grace/forgiveness

"Like one of us": They acted in God's role as moral judge

The Main Point

The world fell from paradise to chaotic and deadly trouble when they failed in their God-given roles

Woman → Fit helper

Moral judge

Advocate for disobedience

Man → Guard

Passive acceptance

Human laws

Proper authorities make laws

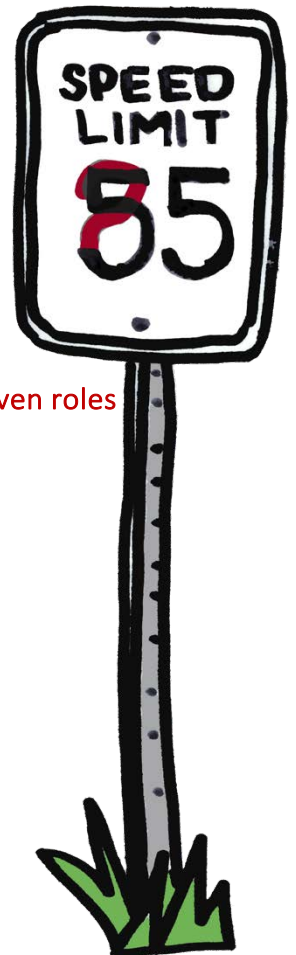
Proper authorities enforce laws

Sometimes people take over those roles

God's Law

God is the only one who is wise and good enough to make good laws

Satan prompted Eve to question those laws...and the law giver



Eve chose to rewrite the laws (she became like God)
Eve invited Adam to join her
Adam didn't resist or correct or guard
Their actions changed creation from being good and safe to being broken and dangerous

Central to Sin is...

putting human judgment above divine command
actively or passively, leader or follower

Judges: "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit." Judges 21:25

My colleague: "I will only believe what makes sense to me."

"Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight." Isaiah 5:21

Application

Submit to God and His commands

His commands are always an expression of His love for us
He is the only one who knows what is best and most life-giving
Our understanding and goodness always fall far short of God's understanding and goodness
Different people have different roles

As a helper

Don't be an unwitting advocate for rebellion, by words or by actions
Like Peter to Jesus

As a guardian

Actively guard God's teaching and ways

Confess to God when we stray

We keep acting as though we know better than God
We keep treating God as though He does not truly love us
Stop hiding and come into God's presence, so He can clothe us
God already knows, and is waiting for us

A Second Adam

The first Adam failed: "many died by the trespass of the first man"

The second Adam (Jesus Christ) won the victory for all who will trust in Him!

"For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man many will be made righteous." Romans 5:17

Hope in Confession

Cherubim guarded access to Tree of Life
Cherubim on temple curtain guarded access to God's presence in the Holy of Holies
When Jesus died, the curtain was torn in two
the cherubim stepped aside and no longer prevented access to those who are in Christ!
Our hope is in Christ our rescuer!

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. In what ways are you tempted to think God's commands are not actually an expression of His love for us, that His commands restrict us or take away our opportunity to flourish and find joy?
2. What are the roles God has given you? In what ways are you to be a helper? In what ways are you to be a guardian? In what ways have you fallen short of His design? What does it look like to grow?

Conversation starters

What is it that spoils good things in the world? What can we do about it?