

with is slavery, with lose, without the very thing you hoped for.

What did Adam and Eve's trust in the devil produce? A broken relationship between Adam and Eve. They fear the one who loves them. They run and hide from God. They're not more like him. God is love and perfect love drives out all fear. Adam and Eve are wracked with fear and so they lie, they accuse, they avoid, they hide in the bushes. What a mess.

What looked so good ended up so bad, just as God has said. Eat and you will die, and they die in their relationship with God, with each other, with the world around them. What a mess.

Where is the devil tempting you, distorting your perspective on life, getting you to doubt Jesus' clear words,

seeking to entice you to believe his bold lies? Where is the devil tempting you to believe your smarter than God, that what you decide makes things right or wrong?

Sadly the legacy of Adam and Eve is a mess. Messed up relationships, which only Jesus has the capacity to heal and restore. And thank God Jesus has come so that we can again live trusting God with our lives, doing what he says because we know he loves us and can be trusted. Trusted more than my emotions, more than my mates, more than my felt needs, more than my dislike of pain and being uncomfortable.

Thank God that as we live as Jesus' disciples we once again have the ability to truly reflect the image of God, as we give people, relationships, priority,

loving each other as we are loved by Jesus. Growing in being open and honest, showing patients and kindness, seeking to forgive building an atmosphere of love and trust.

Let us pray. Jesus open our eyes to the devil's lies and deceptions so that we can see life clearly through your eyes, having your perception of life. Jesus open our hearts and minds that we know deep within our souls your love for us, so that we might love each other as we are loved by you. Fill us with the Holy Spirit that we might be open and honest with you and with each other, building healthy, loving, vibrant relationships according to your way of doing things, because we know we can trust you with our lives. Amen.

## Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

25 July 2010

## ADAM & EVE

Genesis 3:1-12



The account of Adam and Eve's fall into sin reminds me why spending time looking at 'The Relationship Principles of Jesus' was so important. For what we find are all those principles being broken, and we see relationships dying. Sin at heart is a relationship term.

This is important, because if I get this wrong, I'll get the whole of what God is on about wrong. I'll be missing the mark. So please note that sin is a relationship term, which indicates a total break-down of our relationship with God.

What was at the heart of Adam and Eve's sin? They didn't trust God.

They trusted what the devil said. They built their lives on what the devil said. This is what is meant by the often used phrase; we are

saved by faith. It means we trust Jesus with our lives, with our decisions. We believe Jesus and so we do what he says. We know he loves us and wouldn't lead us up the garden path. We know Jesus has placed the highest value on our relationship with him. We know, for Jesus, love matters most.

Unfortunately Adam and Eve chose to do what the devil said. They didn't believe God, so their faith was placed in what the devil said, or at least in the doubt he raised. Maybe God really doesn't love me. Maybe God doesn't know what he is on about and we're missing out. So they put their faith in their taste and see. They put their trust in themselves.

That is what the first commandment is all about. Idolatry is when I trust myself and I

determine what's important and what isn't. That's me making my own God. That's me not trusting God, and the breakdown of trust leads to the death of any relationship.

How did the devil get Adam and Eve to lose their trust in God?

The first thing he does is cause doubt? "Did God really say." Do you notice that the devil didn't initially ask them to do anything stupid? He just sowed doubt into their relationship. Where is the devil seeking to sow doubt into your relationships? Don't make decisions that are built on doubt, rather deal with the doubt.

Immediately prior to the Fall we read; "The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame." (Gen. 2:25) That's not a fashion

statement, but a commentary about their relationship. They had nothing to hide. They had perfect trust in each other. So what would have happened if Eve had gone to Adam and talked to him about the devil's question, and then together they'd sat down with God and openly asked him about the tree and why he'd asked them not to eat from it. What do you think would have happened after this frank, open discussion, with those they love?

Who are you tempted to doubt, and not be open and honest with? Doubt left in the dark leads to death.

Then the devil distorts Eve's perception. "When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it." (Gen. 3:6)

Have you also noticed that Eve was working on her own, and not as part

of the community that God created? One our own we're easy meat. So the devil distorts Eve's perception so that she sees what will kill her as something that will enhance her life. God quite clearly said; "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the

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### Who are you tempted to doubt?

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knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will certainly die." (Gen. 2:16,17) Is this hard to understand? It's simple and clear, don't eat, or you'll die. But now Eve perceives, eat and you'll be better off.

Where does God warn us not to do something, but we see everyone else doing it and are tempted to join in? Where is the devil distorting our perception?

The other part of the devil's deception is he makes it look like Eve is missing out somehow. How many different trees were there in the garden for Eve to discover and enjoy? Apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, apricots, almonds, walnuts, mango, paw paws, avocados and the list goes on. How many trees did God ask them not to eat from? One. And by not eating they actually enhanced their life, because here God had given

them an opportunity to give expression to their love and trust in him. Each time they didn't eat they would have grown, strengthened their relationship with God. Was God being a kill-joy, as the devil tries to paint him? Hardly.

Where does the devil twist your perception to see God as a kill-joy because he's asking us not to do something that he knows will harm us, that will kill our relationship with him, leaving us with a broken

heart, with a wasted life, without hope. Where is the devil tempting you to doubt God's love for you, painting him to be a kill-joy?

Here's an opportunity to grow your relationship with Jesus. Admit it, be open and honest about your temptation, and then ask Jesus to bind it up and throw it in the rubbish, where it belongs. Then ask Jesus to release his will in your life. Ask Jesus to fill you with the Holy Spirit, that you have God's

perspective and can see the destructive nature of what the devil is tempting you with. So you can see the lie clearly for what it is. And involve others so you're not going it alone.

God, in Jesus, loves you more than his own life. You're precious to him, and he only wants what is best for you. That's what he has devoted his life to, through his life, his crucifixion, his resurrection, his ascension, and his

return. Jesus doesn't lie to us.

Have you also noticed that one of the great tests of love is abstaining from something? In an instant world, where I want my needs meet instantly, abstaining feels strange. The devil has a field day distorting our perception, tempting us to believe that God

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### God's not kill-joy

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doesn't know what he's on about when he asks us to abstain from something. When God says, 'Wait, now's not the right time', he's not being a kill-joy but growing our love capacity, enhancing our ability to love as he does. Where is God calling you to wait, or not do something, but the devil is tempting you to doubt God's wisdom and have a go. 'Seize the day, you don't want to miss-out, look everyone else is doing it'.

Where is the devil distorting your perception so that you see what leads to death and the way of life, and see Jesus as a kill-joy rather than the giver of life lived to the max.

Did you also notice the devil tells a straight out lie as if it is the truth? "You will not certainly die... For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Gen. 3:5)

When Adam and Eve were created, in whose image were they created? God's. How much more like God could they become? Instead they trust a lie and lose their humanity. They didn't become more like God, but lose the very essence of their humanity. Now we have the capacity to be inhuman to each other. Lies never have the ability to give what they promise. The devil promises the world, he just doesn't have it to give. All you end up