

# 6

## Paradise in crisis Genesis 3: 1—9



KICK OFF

Have we lost the words like 'sin' and 'evil' from our culture? Or are they only used in certain contexts?



KEY VERSE

'He said to the woman, 'did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'



BIG IDEA

Where the world started to go wrong.



INVESTIGATE

### SATAN'S ATTITUDE TO GOD Read Genesis 3:1

1. What is the purpose of verse 1?
2. With what does the fall begin?
3. 'We tend to be socialised into our views of God' Discuss

### THE FALL CONTINUES

#### Read Genesis 3: 2—5

4. What does the word 'know' mean in verse 5?
5. What lie is the devil marketing in verses 2—5?



DIG DEEPER

*Francis Schaeffer in 'Genesis in Space and Time' p 74 says*

'Note that in that

day, the twenty four hours, when Adam sinned, he did not physically die. He died in a way that the New Testament labels a 'present death.' Before a man now accepts Christ as his Saviour, it is not just that he will die but that he is already dead. He is separated from God, he has no purpose and no final meaning. Therefore, in the day that Adam ate, he died. There are three steps in this death. First comes separation from God, the infinite, personal reference point and immediately thereafter meaninglessness in the present life. Even though man continues to breathe, and with his wife brings forth children, he is dead. And to this extent our voices as Christians are joined with the voices from the opposite end of the spectrum—the existentialists and the modern men—who say with us, 'Amen, Man is dead.' And thus perhaps it is easier to say this and be, in some sense at least, understood than it was fifty or hundred years ago. Second, there is a physical death. A few short years, though Adam's life was longer than ours, and Adam's body will rot in the grave. Third, there is eternal death in the penalty that is meted out. The end of the eating is not just the present situation as horrible and abnormal as it is, PTO

6. What was the great sin?

**THE REST OF HUMAN HISTORY IN A NUTSHELL**

**Read Genesis 3: 7—9**

7. What was Adam’s and Eve’s response to the presence of God after they ate of the tree? In what ways can transparency be traumatic? What are the consequences of the fall? (see the sidebar)

Not just physical death, not just a blank, a vacuum. There is a horizontal dimension—eternal death and eternal separation from God who is really there—from his glory and his grace.

‘It was a simple test and everything involved in it was made absolutely plain.’

Francis Schaeffer  
‘Genesis in Space and Time’ p 75.

**THINK THROUGH FURTHER**



8. What is Jesus’ struggle in Mark 14: 32—42?

9. Dr. David Martyn Lloyd-Jones used to say the way in which he could tell the difference between a person who was a Pharisee, who believed they were saved by their good works, and a Christian who understood the gospel of grace, was to ask them, “Are you a Christian?”

If you ask a pharisaical, moralistic person, “Are you a Christian?” the person gets very ... “What do you mean? Of course. Why would you even ask? How dare you ask?” But if you ask anybody who understands the gospel of grace, “Are you a Christian?” they laugh. They say, “Yes, what a joke. Me, a Christian. But it’s true.”

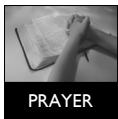
Discuss.

**PRAISE GOD** for his goodness

**CONFESS** how often we are socialised into our understanding of the world rather than basing our understanding on scripture.

**ASK GOD** for a sense of the wonder and awe of his grace through Jesus Christ.

**PRAY ALSO** for a resilience in a cynical and mocking culture .



Praise God for the challenges raised by God’s word through this study Praying for others in your group:

Pray for others in your group



How do we apply this passage in our daily life?



Next week’s topic is *Paradise Lost*  
Read: Genesis 3: 8—24