



## WHO PUT THE EVIL IN PRIMEVAL HISTORY?

### Introduction:

"With irresistible power desire seizes mastery over the flesh.... It makes no difference whether it is sexual desire, or ambition, or vanity, or desire for revenge, or love of fame and power, or greed for money.... Joy in God is...extinguished in us and we seek all our joy in the creature. At this moment God is quite unreal to us, he loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real.... Satan does not here fill us with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God.... The lust thus aroused envelops the mind and will of man in deepest darkness. The powers of clear discrimination and of decision are taken from us. The questions present themselves: "Is what the flesh desires really sin in this case?" "Is it really not permitted to me, yes - expected of me, now, here, in my particular situation, to appease desire?" ...It is here that everything within me rises up against the Word of God."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Temptation* (London: SCM Press, 1961), p. 33

### I. THE SUBTLETY OF THE SERPENT (vs. 1-5)

#### A. His Strategy (Revelation 12:9; 20:2)

- 1) to plant doubt ("Indeed, has God said...?") - Genesis 2:15-17
- 2) to produce distortion ("...you shall not eat from any tree of the garden?")
- 3) to promote denial ("you will not surely die")

#### B. His Seduction (II Corinthians 2:11)

- 1) He is crafty and deceptive, not straightforward.
- 2) He challenges the authority of the Word of God.
- 3) He impugns God's character.
- 4) He contradicts the certainty of God's judgment.
- 5) He promises pleasure but doesn't mention the pain.

## II. THE RUIN OF THE RACE (vs. 6-7)

### A. How does temptation work?

I John 2:15-16 - Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh ["she saw that the tree was good for food"] and the lust of the eyes ["and that it was a delight to the eyes"] and the boastful pride of life ["and that the tree was desirable to make one wise"], is not from the Father, but is from the world.

### B. What took place?

I Timothy 2:13-14

Romans 5:12

### C. What were/are the results?

"the eyes of both of them were opened"

"they knew that they were naked"

they "made themselves loin coverings"

## III. THE GRACE OF GOD (vs. 8-13)

### A. God Seeks the Guilty Sinner

"the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day"

they "hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God"

"Where are you?"

### B. God Confronts the Guilty Sinner

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." – C.S. Lewis

### C. God Offers Reconciliation to the Guilty Sinner

man: "the woman whom you gave...and I ate"

woman: "the serpent deceived me...and I ate"

**Conclusion:** Remembering that our enemy...

1) is crafty and deceptive, not straightforward...\_\_\_\_\_

2) challenges the authority of the Word of God...\_\_\_\_\_

3) impugns God's character...\_\_\_\_\_

4) contradicts the certainty of God's judgment...\_\_\_\_\_

5) promises pleasure but doesn't mention the pain...\_\_\_\_\_

I Peter 5:8-9