

Genesis 3:1-13

¹ Now the snake was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He asked the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You shall not eat from **any of the trees** in the garden?’”

² The woman answered the snake: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³ it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, ‘You shall not eat it **or even touch it**, or else you will die.’” ⁴ But the snake said to the woman: “You certainly will not die!

⁵ God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who **know good and evil**.” ⁶ The woman saw that the tree was **good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom**. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they **knew that they were naked**; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸ When they heard the sound of the LORD God walking about in the garden at the breezy time of the day, the man and his wife **hid themselves** from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ The LORD God then called to the man and asked him: Where are you? ¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid.” ¹¹ Then God asked: Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat?

¹² The man replied, “**The woman** whom **you put here** with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it.” ¹³ The LORD God then asked the woman: What is this you have done? The woman answered, “The snake tricked me, so I ate it.”

Notes: See how the phrases in bold from the passage relate to our own experience.

Verse 1: When something is forbidden, it becomes the only thing we want.

Verse 3: When we’re afraid of our impulses, we construct artificial barriers.

Verse 5: Power over everything. (“knowing” = power, “good and evil” = everything)

Verse 6: Attraction to some good is essential for every bad choice.

Verse 7: Bad choices not only bring on interior guilt, but interior *shame*.

Verse 8: Bad choices bring on exterior embarrassment

Verse 12: Refusal of responsibility #1: blame the woman

Verse 12: Refusal of responsibility #2: blame God!

Verse 13: Refusal of responsibility #3: blame the snake