

The Enticement of Evil

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Genesis 3: 1-5.
- B. In this section is the answer for all the world's problems.
- C. We cannot escape the sin of Adam and Eve because it happened to our original parents.

II. The strategy of the tempter.

- A. This creature was more subtle than any other creature.
- B. The "serpent" should be translated "shining one"
- C. He was crafty.
- D. He sought out the woman because she is more emotive.
- E. His strategy.
 - 1. His strategy is to appear as one who appeals to us.
 - 2. If we learn how he works, we can learn to detect him. (James 1:14-15)
 - 3. He first arouses a desire to do wrong.
 - a. The opportunity that the tempter has is the gift of free will given to man by God.
 - b. The tempter got in because God permitted him to come in.
 - c. We have the right to reject God's love.
 - d. God is a God of love, and love never coerces.
 - 4. Then he plants distrust in the woman's heart.
 - a. He questions God's request, and he questions God's character.
 - b. We are to pray that we are not even led into temptation. When we feel the desire, the battle may already be lost.
 - c. We are confronted always with the fact that we are limited in some way, and we are tested whether we will accept the limitations put on us.

5. The devil questions the importance of the command. He uses the character and being of God to support an outright lie.

6. The devil then distorts the truth for his gain.

7. What went wrong.

a. The battle was lost when Eve believed the devil's questioning of what God said.

b. It was not wrong to arouse desire, but the way the devil aroused love was wrong.

1) God loves us first.

2) He declares a promise of result to us.

3) He offers us His presence to bring us to that promise.

F. His work with us.

1. Ask yourself if you feel like you are being cheated and whether God would really keep you from something.

2. Ask yourself if what you want contradicts a truth God has revealed.

3. Ask yourself whether the promised result is vague.

III. The results of the Fall.

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to understand how the devil works?

2. What is the devil's strategy for getting men to fall?

3. Which check for determining the devil's work stands out to you the most? What strikes you about it?
