

# GENESIS

## SESSION 14

### Opening Discussion

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~~FROM THE DUST~~

- † Consider the following: A man commits a crime, and the king declares "off with his head!" The executioner drags the criminal up to the guillotine and swiftly chops off the man's head. Who killed the criminal? Who is responsible for his death? Sure, one could simply say that the man himself shoulders most of the blame for having committed a crime worthy of death in the first place, but the question remains: Who is responsible for actually killing the man? Who shoulders that blame?
  
- † Now imagine that the metaphorical king is God, sinful human beings are the criminals, and Satan is the executioner. Would this new revelation change our answer as to who is responsible, or would the answer stay the same? How does our answer shape the way we see God's role in the bad or evil things that happen in this world?
  
- † If God is truly God, then God is responsible for all things. Consider how this truth affects the way we understand scriptural accounts such as The Fall into Sin (Genesis 3), King David's Census (2 Samuel 24:1-17), The Thorn in Paul's Flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7-10), The Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4 & Luke 4), and especially, The Book of Job.

### Read Genesis 3:1-7

- 1 Concerning the two trees that God placed in the Garden of Eden, Martin Luther explained that *"There is created a tree distinguishing good and evil, so that Adam might have a definite way to express his worship and reverence toward God. This tree was Adam's church, altar and pulpit. Here he was to yield to God the obedience he owed, give recognition to the Word and will of God, give thanks to God, and call upon God for aid against temptation. The tree was not deadly by nature; it was deadly because it was stated to be so by the Word of God. It kills through potency of the Word of Him who issues the prohibition."* What does Luther mean?
  
- 2 Why didn't God just stay Eve's hand and prevent this whole fiasco from happening?

† Consider how the book of James describes temptation:

#### **JAMES 1:14-18**

*Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

- 3 How does Satan lead Eve into sin? How does he still use these same deceits today?
- 4 What ultimately is the temptation that leads Eve, and then Adam, to eat of the forbidden fruit?
- 5 Aside from the obvious, what else is meant in verse 7 that Adam and Eve “knew” they were naked?

### *Deep Thought*

- 6 While we aren't quite there yet... consider the profound truth of Genesis 3:15. How does this verse show that God used Satan to “work all things for good” (Romans 8:28)? Hint: Consider the earlier quote from Luther about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When Satan attacks Adam's church – the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil—where then is Adam and Eve's worship focused after the Fall into sin?