

Eve's Way 01-17-05

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Genesis 3 – I want to read a story we all should be pretty familiar with. If we had a title this morning it would be called “Eve’s Way.” There’s a great need in the world for people to forsake the way of Adam. A lot of times we hear about Adam and his way and how, because of sin entering into the world, we’ve all become part of Adam’s race ... but this morning I want to lay the foundation of how people became part of Adam’s race; and that’s by choosing Eve’s Way. This will be mostly towards the women, but we can all take this path. It is a message that is much needed today – a message that, as we will see a little later, not only affects the home, but also the church and the whole world. I just want to encourage you to not be discouraged this morning by what you hear, but use it as a way by finding how we don’t want to take this way. Don’t be discouraged if you find yourself in this way; choose to get out of this way and get in God’s way. I want to try to stay as close as we can to the scriptures, so let’s begin in Genesis 3, the account in the Garden of Eden.

3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

I want to stop there for a moment – the first mention of the husband is in verse 6. All of this dialog that has taken place before that is when the woman was talking to Satan. This is Eve’s Way. Satan came and he knew it would be difficult to convince Adam to disobey God – so he came and he attacked the weaker vessel (the Bible says in 1 Peter that the woman is the weaker vessel). God made man – he’s the stronger one between the two. There is a great difference between the man and the woman. The man was made as the protector; as the head of the home and the guide, and the woman was the weaker vessel ... and there is no shame in that; there’s no need to be ashamed of that. But Satan knows that also, and he came and was subtle. He began to tempt the woman and trying to cause her to doubt what the word of God said. We can find several things here, but the most important thing is that God’s word will stand, and whenever we begin to question His word and begin to look at it and analyze it and have a question mark where God said ‘this is how it’s going to be,’ we open the door to deception. This is another tactic that Satan is using today – people questioning the word of God instead of believing it. We’ve set ourselves up as judges of the word of God today instead of servants to it. We want to analyze it and pick it apart like we have a right to challenge the One who wrote it instead of submitting ourselves to it and humbly obeying it. That’s Eve’s Way. Eve began to analyze because she listened to the Tempter. That’s how we can all be a part of Eve’s way.

Satan began to beguile Eve, lead her into questions that caused her to doubt and really think. And then he came with the first lie in the Bible, vs. 4 – the first out and out lie - he put a question mark there (that would have caused a question of the truth) when he said, “*Ye shall not surely die.*” Just a flat out lie. That’s what we need to remember this morning – whenever we start down the road of sin or Eve’s Way, Satan comes along and says, “God won’t punish you for this; there’s not going to be bad fruit coming out of this.” The Bible says in Galatians 6 – “*God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*” The Devil tells us, “it’s ok, God won’t punish you for those things.” In fact, Satan turns it around and says, “*For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*” He tries to come at us and convince us that God is trying to keep us from something. He comes at us with the temptation that, “Oh, look at this life you are living – look at how you could be doing!” He tempts us. “God is trying to keep you from having a good time!” “God is trying to keep you from really being yourself and exerting your authority and being somebody!” He comes in the name of the ‘women’s movement’ and says to the women, “You are oppressed staying at home raising a family! You are wasting your life! You have talents, you are just as smart as a man! You can get an education! You can be a leader! You can be powerful! You can have a career! You can have all of these things, and God (or your husband or your church) is just trying to keep you from doing that!” Those are the temptations that Satan brings to us, and they are lies. Lies.

Verse 6, *“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food ...”* 1 John 2 talks about what the world is: the lust of the eyes. Right here we see the world – she saw that the tree was good for food: the lust of the eyes. Eve’s Way – *“That looks good!”* The lust of the flesh: *and that it was pleasant to the eyes.* The pride of life: *and a tree to be desired to make one wise.* The world. *“She took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”*

We talked a little about this the other evening in Bible study – if we read on a little bit:

Genesis 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. 8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Here’s a picture of condemnation. God comes into the world and man hides now! Because he’s under condemnation – they were guilty and they knew they were naked before God. They put on their little aprons and it didn’t work; they were still ashamed and they hid themselves. That’s the way man is still doing today – men love darkness more than light because their deeds are evil.

Genesis 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? 10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

Look who God wanted to talk to. Did He say, “Eve, Eve, where are you at?” No. All of these verses here were about Eve, but when God came into the scene, He asked where Adam was. This gives us a pretty clear pictures of who God has responsible.

Genesis 3:10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. 11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? 12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

Now most of what I’ve been taught was that – here the man turned around and blamed Eve ... but he didn’t blame Eve here! He blamed God! *“The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.”* “It’s your fault God – that woman you gave me, she caused me to eat of it.”

Genesis 3:13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

“The serpent beguiled me and I did eat.” Eve’s Way. God, whenever He came, He looked for the man because the man was responsible. We read in 1 Timothy 2 a little more light on the subject here. We see that God came and He asked for the man and we see that the woman was beguiled.

1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. 11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

The woman was deceived. Adam sinned. When we read about this and Paul teaches later about being a part of Adam’s fallen race. We are called “Adam’s fallen race”, not Eve’s. Eve was beguiled, and it wasn’t until Adam took of the fruit that sin entered into the world. It’s through the seed of man – that’s why it’s so important that we believe that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit ... He didn’t have the corrupt seed that you and I have in us. God planted Christ in Mary’s womb, but you and I are of the corrupted seed of Adam, not the beguiled seed of Eve. The deceived Eve laid the groundwork for all of this to come into the world. She chose a path that God never intended. She took it upon herself to be allowed to be talked to by the Devil instead of saying, “I’m not going to do this; we are going to go get my husband and find out about this.” Too many times the woman just takes it upon herself to handle things. The correct response here as soon as Eve began talking to this creature would have been her saying, “Let’s go get my husband and see how this should be.” But she chose her own path. She took Eve’s road and it brought in sin and death on the world. *“And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”* Adam sinned.

Ephesians 5 – I want to read a few verses here but I want to bring the importance of it. I preached along this theme a couple of weeks ago in Hong Kong. There were several women there and I heard some responses. They think Christianity wouldn't be too big of a problem for them if it wasn't for Paul. They think Christianity wouldn't be too hard except for what Paul says and how he directs that a woman should live. I guess I just have to think, you know, they don't know how far down Eve's road they have gone when they have said a statement like that. God has an order, and Paul is just trying to set things back into God's order. Whenever you see a Christian home that is in order, there is nothing more beautiful. Yet, these women are blaming Paul for making it too hard to be a Christian. It's absolutely upside-down. Paul is trying to pave the way to make a beautiful home and a beautiful Christianity.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

"As unto the Lord" – do you realize what that means? "*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*" We read a verse that Jesus said in one of His parables, "As you've done unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto Me." There was some that visited the sick, some that gave food to the hungry, some that clothed the naked, and Jesus said, "As you've done unto the least of these my brethren, you've done this for ME ... not just these people; you've done this for Me." The Bible says here, "*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*" When you disobey your husband, do you know who you are disobeying? The Lord. Whenever you speak against your husband, you are speaking against the Lord. Let's read on:

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, [and then we have a comparison here:] even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

This can't be stated any plainer. "*For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church:*" This tells us several things. Christ is to be the head of the church, and you know whenever you look at the world today and the church, they have the same problem most homes have: the wife is bossing the husband around just like the church is bossing Christ around. The church is saying, "I'll write my own rules." The church is saying, "I'll disregard what the Bible says; you are not going to tell me what to do. You are not going to tell me what to do!" The same disease of following Eve's Way is in the church the same as it is in the home. We've got the church bossing Christ around, and you know what? That ain't going to happen – because when the church becomes the head, the head goes away. Nobody is going to boss God around. Nobody is going to tell Him what He says does not matter. They might think they are getting away with it. They might believe it for just a little bit, but when we stand before the Almighty God on judgment day and we've questioned what His words say because we've gone Eve's Way and listened to the Devil's lies, He is going to make all things clear and straight. "I am God and you are not." All of the churches that have set out to make their own way are going to find out that they became the head instead of the bride. Christ is coming back for a bride, not a head. He is coming back for a bride; and when the church becomes a head, she is no longer the bride.

"Just like that" ... "Even as" ... this is the way it's to be in the church – the wife is to submit herself to the husband. "*Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*"

1 Peter 3 for another example; we'll let Paul 'off the hook' for a little bit because Peter came along and said the same thing! It's not all Paul's fault; it's not just his ideas. He was not trying to make it rough on the woman, he was trying to make it beautiful on the woman.

1 Peter 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

I want to read on but I want to stop there for just a minute. We met with a family last weekend; they are homeschooling, the father works, they grew up in a setting where her mother is a preacher, a leader in the church. But they picked up the Bible and began studying and searching. One day the man came home from work and his wife and daughters met him at the door. They told him they discovered in the Bible and some of the things that they were reading that a woman ought to be dressing modestly. So they asked him if it would be all right if they wore dresses all the time. He didn't quite understand it all completely but he said, "Yeah! Go ahead, that would be fine." It wasn't but a few days later, he came home and they had been reading the Bible again. They had been

studying in Corinthians where it talked about wearing a covering on their head. They asked him if it would be all right and he said, "Yes that would be ok." He didn't quite understand it and was a little shocked, but he just said, "Well I guess, if you see it that way." Well, a few nights later they had plans to go out to dinner with a pastor there. So he came home a little late and here she was already ready, just waiting on him come in the door. He walked in the door and here his wife was with a handkerchief on her head and an old dress that was all she really had. He thought she looked pretty "ragamuffin", and he said, "Oh no, not tonight ... you can't ... we are going out to dinner! You can't look like that tonight!" She said, "Well, if that's what you'd like." And he said, "Well yes, go find you some jeans and take that thing off your head and you just dress the way I want you to." So she went back and changed her clothes – dressed back the way she had always done, and they went to dinner. He said that was the most miserable night he had ever spent in his life. He was miserable because God was on him. Here his wife was trying to follow the Lord and he became a hindrance to that. He came home and later told his wife, "If that's the way God wants you to be, that's the way you need to be." Because of her meek and quiet spirit and her submissiveness to her head, God took over. I think that's one of the things the Bible means when it talks about having power on your head – whenever you are submissive to your husband and there is power on your head, God fights your battles for you. God will change your husband, and He can do a lot better job of it than you can. He will make him into what He wants him to be, not what you think He wants him to be.

1 Peter 3:5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: 6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

If we look at this account here and we reference it back into the Old Testament where Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord, there was two different times when Abraham and Sarah were traveling and they had made an agreement together that anytime they entered a new kingdom or a new village or a new place, that (Sarah was a beautiful woman) just in case the king would spy this woman and said, "I want this woman for my harem," just in case ... Abraham made a deal with Sarah that Sarah would say, "He is my brother," so that Abraham wouldn't be killed. We could say, "Well that's selfish." It may have been, but that didn't change the way the woman needed to respond to it. Whenever the woman submits herself to the husband, God will take care of her. So Abraham and Sarah came into this place and sure enough, the king saw this beautiful woman that came in and they asked and Sarah said, "He is my brother," so they took her and put her in the king's harem. She obeyed her husband, even to the point of being taken away from him to become the king's wife. She went along with it. Why? Because her husband asked her to. That doesn't sound like a very loving relationship, does it? But look who God is praising here! "*Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.*"

"For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:" This is what the Bible is talking about whenever it says, "Women, submit yourselves to your husbands – obey them in everything." We also have an example of Sarah and Abraham in a later time that Sarah took Eve's road. They didn't have children – God had promised them children. We can see the contrast here. Sarah submitted to Abraham and there was a great blessing there, but in this other time, they didn't have children and Sarah came to Abraham with an idea. 'Hey, I've got an idea; I've got a suggestion. Why don't you take my handmaiden here and have a child by her.' And that produced Ishmael. How did that idea turn out? We are still dealing with that problem today – Ishmael is where the people of Islam trace their roots. One woman chose again to take Eve's Way and say, "I've got an idea," and man submitted to her idea. It's brought pain and suffering into the world ever since. The Bible talked of Ishmael saying, 'He shall be a wild man. His hand will be against his brother and his hand will be against every man.' That's what happened whenever the man submitted to the woman. Whenever we do it opposite of God's way, things go wrong.

Proverbs 14:1 Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

That would be a verse that we need to memorize and think about every day when we think of our family and our home. Women – you have power. You have power! The man is in the place of responsibility. The man is in the place of authority, but you have the power. The power is in YOUR hands. I don't know what the percentages are, but I'm just going to throw out a guess that 90% of the sway of the children goes to the mother – the children are going to follow the mother. A wise woman buildeth her house – you can't build your house and be against your husband, no matter how bad or good he may be. If you go against your husband, you are plucking your house down ... you are tearing it up. "*but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands*" – your children see how you respond to the Lord and they learn how to respond to the Lord by how they see you respond. Whenever you go against your

husband in anything, you just as well be taking a big old hammer or taking your care and driving into the corner of your house, weakening the foundation. You are plucking your house down one bit at a time. One day it will fall. One day those children that took your side on so many things will bring you to shame. The power is in your hands. The husband, he is the one that will get questioned – he is the one God is going to come ask about ... but the woman has the power to pluck her own house down. There's no need for that. He is not your enemy.

You know, the more I study and the more I read these things, they are just so plain – if a woman is disobedient to her husband, she cannot be saved; she is rejecting the Lord. Impossible. And this is not just my own ideas, that's why I wanted to read a lot of scripture today. It is the things that the Bible teach. Paul is not just trying to make it rough on you. Peter is not trying to make it rough on you. Solomon is not trying to make it rough on you. And I am not trying to make it rough on you. I'm trying to show you how to build your house. Let him make his mistakes, let him do what he needs to do ... you do your part ... because you have the power. It is in your hands. And every time you choose to tear him down a little bit, you just as well go jump in the car and go crashing into the side of your house. How many times do you think you can do that without it falling down? Because that is what you are doing – it is just that simple.

Children, your father is the head of the home. If you don't honor and respect him, you are heading for a house falling too.

May the Lord add His blessings.