

THE FIRST SIN

1. Text: Genesis 3:1-8
2. Few studies can help us more in 2006 to deal with mankind's ultimate problems than what happened in the Garden of Eden with the first couple.
3. What was the first sin? How do we see it all about us today?

I. What Happened In The Garden?

1. Satan or the devil is there to tempt through the serpent (Revelation 12:9).
2. II Corinthians 11:14 Satan can transform himself into a messenger of light. He challenges God in three ways.
3. First, he challenges God's word. Verse 4: "You will not surely die."
4. Second, he questions God's goodness. Verse 5: "For God knows that..." Notice: "The charm of vagueness" here.
5. Third, he challenges God's position or authority. Verse 6: "You will be like God."
6. Practical: Notice how the serpent focused on the one forbidden thing and not all that were allowed!
7. Eve is now ready for Genesis 3:6. "So when the woman saw the tree." Her motivation is in what was said earlier.
8. Major thrust: You will be "God-like." What an idea! And it caused the fall into sin.

II. Why Did And Does This Happen?

1. Man's desire: Autonomy (self-rule)
2. To be independent of the divine.
3. To have no restriction, dependency, submission to deity.
4. Theism versus humanism. The age old struggle.
5. "Man as the measure" No higher power or claim.
6. Jonah 1:3 "Jonah arose to flee from the presence of the Lord."
7. Romans 1:18-32. Verse 18: Suppress the truth. Verse 20: Without excuse. Verse 22: Professing wisdom, they become fools. Verse 23: They changed the glory of God into an image made like man. Verse 25: Worshiped and served the creature rather than the creator.

III. How Do We See This Today?

1. Idolatry and paganism
2. Deification of man and the humanizing of God.
3. The phobia against the recognition of a "higher power."
4. God's name: revered or reviled?
5. Church and state separation absurdities
6. "In God we trust"
7. Creationism.
8. Intelligent design
9. Education in general
10. Tolerance and nonjudgmentalism: Make your own standards and leave mine alone.
11. New age movement
12. All is relative; there are no absolutes.
13. Romans one and the specific sin there.
14. "Lord Christ Savior"

Conclusion: Psalm 139:7 "Where can I flee from your presence?"

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
Northwest Church of Christ - Sunday Morning, January 8, 2006

