

Two Sides To Every Coin Which Side Are You On?

Our trouble started all the way back in *Genesis 3*. God had created both man and woman before the events of this chapter. In fact, He had created every thing that is, including *"every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*¹ When He finished His work, *Genesis 1:31* says, *"God saw everything that He had made and indeed it was very good."* We may never know or understand exactly how *"the serpent"* of *Genesis 3:1* entered God's creation in the form or with the malice he did but it did. God certainly did not create the *"serpent"* in this fashion for God is not the author or the creator of evil; but, that was what this *"serpent"* was - despicably evil.

The man and the woman who God created were perfect and they were placed in a perfect place. It was paradise. But, the *"serpent"* was there also. After God's voice, the first voice we hear in this place of paradise, *"the garden of Eden,"*² was that of the *"serpent."* *"Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"* Then the voice of the woman. *"And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' Then the serpent said to the*

*woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' "*³

The first recorded conversation between two creatures created by God was filled with lies. God never said the *"tree"* could not be touched but God did say *"in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die"*⁴ in spite of what the *"serpent"* said. But it was too much for Eve to resist. Think of it! Eve and her husband could *"be like God !"* They had been created mortal but could be immortal like God - or so they thought. The *"serpent"* said so.

Like him, Eve said in her heart, *"I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation, on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High."*⁵ There, she would not need God; she would be God.

Since *Genesis 3* men have wanted to be their own God. They have never wanted to be under the authority of and in submission to the One, Almighty, Creator God. And ever since then all

¹ *Genesis 1:26*

² *Genesis 2:15*

³ *Genesis 3:1 - 5*

⁴ *Genesis 2:17*

⁵ *Isaiah 14:13 - 14*

men *"have sinned and fall[en] short of the glory of God."*⁶ Instead of being exalted, they have been under the curse and condemnation of their own sins.

There is another man about Whom we read in the holy scriptures. He is sometimes referred to as the God-man. Before coming to earth He was God the Son, the *"Son of God,"* but while on earth He preferred to call Himself the *"Son of Man."* He was God incarnate - God in human flesh. *"... when He came into the world, He said: 'Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me.'"*⁷ wrote the writer of *Hebrews*.

Think about this. Eve wanted to be God by disobeying God; Jesus, the *"Son of God,"* was God but became a man by obeying God. Paul stated it this way in *Philippians 2:5 - 8*. *"...Christ Jesus, Who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."* There can be hardly any greater contrast between two people than between the woman created from Adam's rib and Jesus, the God-man: Eve's egotistical, arrogant pride thinking she could become God-like for her own glory and the God-man's humble submission to His Father's will by becoming man-like for the eternal sake of other men's glory.

⁶ *Romans 3:23*

⁷ *Hebrews 10:5*

This table upon which sits the *"loaf"* that is His body and the *"cup"* that is His blood is not a statue or memorial made of marble. It is not a major attraction on the mall of our nation's capitol or any capitol of the world. It is not ostentatious. It is not "one-of-a-kind." There are hundreds, if not thousands of tables just like this one, or at least similar to it, all over the world. There are thousands who come to commune with their God and Savior at this Table every Lord's Day of the year. It is not an idol. We do not worship the Table or that which is upon the Table. Christians worship the One for Whom this Table memorializes - the *"Son of Man,"* the *"Son of God,"* the God-man Who sacrificed His body and gave His blood for the remission of our sins.

We are not little "gods" who come to this place. Stripped of God's grace, we are Adam's and Eve's, absolutely guilty of sin and in desperate need of God's forgiveness. As Christians, we come to this Table being clothed in the holy, righteousness of the God Who became Man, of the God Who did not exalt Himself to be *"equal with God"* but Who *"humbled Himself"* to become flesh like us, of the God Who knew what it is like to be *"in all points tempted as we are..."* and *"yet,"* as the verse continues, was *"without sin."*⁸

We have not come to a tree in a garden to dialog with and to be tempted by a *"cunning" "serpent"* whose purpose is to enslave us. We have come to a Table to remember the compassionate Son Who freely offered Himself on the *"tree"* at Calvary to free us from the *"serpent,"*

⁸ *Hebrews 4:15*

from sin, and from being separated from God.

To a *"prince"* whose *"heart [was] lifted up, and...[said], 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, in the midst of the seas,' [God said], "...you are a man, and not a god, though you set your heart as the heart of a god..."*⁹ God help us to remember that we are merely a man or a woman created by the sovereign God.

We come to this Table not as a God, but as *"children of God"* we are here at His Table to remember our Savior God's sacrifice for us.

There are two sides to every coin. Which side are you on? Eve's side? - an arrogant, egotistical, person who thinks he is God? Or the Lord's side? - person who in humility bends his knee, bows his head, and worships the God of this Table?

"Father in heaven, forgive us when we have hearts like Eve, thinking that we can disobey You as we please and there are no consequences for that. Lord, by Your grace, You have placed us not in a *'garden'* but in a Kingdom that is Yours and Yours alone, the church that Jesus built. You have given us *'every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,'*¹⁰ even the blessing of knowing that when this earthly life is over our life is not over. Because of Christ conquering death by resurrecting from

His tomb, our lives will continue forever and ever in the heavenly, spiritual Paradise of the *'New Jerusalem'* where we will not only walk with Him but *'we shall see Him as He is.'*¹¹ We ask, for the sake and glory of Jesus, that You bless this loaf and that You receive our thanks for this cup both of which are visual reminders of what Jesus sacrificially gave to make it possible for us to commune with Him at this Table and to live world without end. It is in His name that we pray this. Amen."

⁹ *Ezekiel 28:2*

¹⁰ *Ephesians 1:3*

¹¹ *1 John 3:2*