

ROOTS: back to the source.

What is my problem?

Have you ever had this sense that something just isn't right? Something in the back of your mind is telling you that there is some disconnect, a sense that something is off.

Morpheus (The Matrix) "What you know you can't explain, but you feel it. You've felt it your entire life, that there's **something wrong with the world**. You don't know what it is, but it's there, like a splinter in your mind, driving you mad."

Mark Moore, the author of the book Core 52, says this...

We've all felt the effects in our souls, like an odor in the room we can't identify or remove.

To figure out what the problem is, that thing that we all know, but maybe can't pinpoint in our lives... we have to go back to the beginning, back to our ROOTS.

Genesis 3:1-3

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

God creates Adam and then Eve and places them in the Garden of Eden. It was a place of harmony and provision. It was God who was there and had a perfect relationship with Adam and Eve.

There was one rule... Don't eat from this one tree. All other trees were available for them including the Tree of Life. But this one tree was off limits. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Let's think about this... Adam and Eve lived in harmony with God and each other and the world. They lived in kind of a paradise. All of their needs met. Good relationship with each other, with nature and with God.

And as long as they could reach out and take and eat from the Tree of Life they would live in this paradise and harmony for eternity.

Eve understood these terms...

²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

But the tempter had other plans.

The Bible doesn't specifically say this is Satan, but most Bible students make this connection.

The Bible also doesn't specifically say that Satan is a fallen angel, but rather alludes to the idea that Lucifer led a rebellion in heaven and was cast out of God's presence until judgement. And now he and the demons are in a cosmic battle to take as many of us with them into a Godless eternity.

And what is the enemy's strategy? A full frontal attack on God? Not really. It starts in the Garden with Adam and Eve where he tempts the first humans to be like God knowing good and evil.

The enemy works in the grey area and in half-truths.

Genesis 3:4-5

⁴"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Notice the grey area... **"you will not certainly die."** They would not die in that moment, but that disobedient act would usher in the curse which included physical death.

Notice the half-truth... **"God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."** That's partly true Adam and Eve would see good and evil, for the first time they will know that they have done evil.

Adam and Eve are seduced by the serpent's temptation...

Genesis 3:6-7

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

And that which now hangs over us... that stench in the room we can't identify enters the world. Sin.

Like the smell that couldn't be identified in Caleb's office, sin hangs in this world like a foul smell. Caleb moved to an empty classroom instead of working in his office. But sin is not so easy to escape. **We all have this brokenness we can't shake or justify.**

Whether we realize it or not, SIN is that thing which we all know and feel, but may not realize the full ramifications of in our world and lives.

SIN is defined as "missing the mark that God set for us." It is our moral failure.

Sin is the thing which separates us from a Holy God. Adam and Eve are banished from the Garden and from the Tree of Life. Out of that place of peace and harmony with God.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The whole story finally comes to a climax in these verses. The significance of the tree of life, of which so remarkably little had been said earlier, is only really comprehensible here. Indeed, it is now obvious that the whole story has really been about this tree. . . . Adam only reaches out for the fruit of the tree of life after he has fallen prey to death.... Adam has eaten of the tree of knowledge, but the thirst for the tree of life, which this fruit has given him, remains unquenched. . . . **The tree of life is guarded by the power of death; it remains untouchable, divinely unapproachable.**

And now we live with the affects of sin in this world. Brokenness. Disease. Separation. Distance.

But this isn't ALL BAD...

Felix Culpa is a Latin phrase that means: Happy accident. Fortunate fall. A Felix Culpa is **"the fortunate consequences of an unfortunate event."**

EXAMPLES:

WINTER is often viewed as unfortunate, but it brings about SPRING - new life. Growth.

Every tragedy has the potential to bring about something GREAT:

9/11, Hurricane Florence, Vegas shootings, Australia fires.

It's almost immediate to hear stories of people helping, loving, and encouraging one another.

Felix Culpa is the GOOD THING that comes out of a BAD THING.

The reason that Adam and Eve's sin is viewed as a FELIX CULPA is because although their sin was terrible in a million different ways, it brought about HOPE and the REDEMPTION of all mankind through JESUS.

It is because of the SIN of Adam and Eve that Jesus came to this earth.

It is because of their sin that we now have an opportunity to HOPE in the name of Jesus.

Author **Max Lucado** wrote "*The journey to the cross began long before His arrival. As the echo of the crunching of the fruit was still sounding in the garden, Jesus was leaving for Calvary.*" Calvary is the hill on which Jesus was crucified.

Without the "fortunate fall" of Adam and Eve, we would not have the opportunity to accept the GRACE, LOVE, and FORGIVENESS that we receive through JESUS.

While the upside to Adam & Eve's sin is that God had a plan to send Jesus to be our Savior. We should want to avoid sin in our lives. Maybe we could learn some things from Adam & Eve's mistakes.

James says this is how sin happens...

James 1:13-15

¹³When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

If we just knew how we were going to be tempted, then we might be able to avoid those situations, right?

1 John 1:15-17

¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Jesus friend John says there are three ways that we can be tempted...

The Lust of the Flesh. Those things which appeal to our carnal nature. Things that are not Godly. We are tempted by the things of this world that make us feel good in the moment.

The of the Eyes. Those things that we see that look good to our eyes. Our eyes can get us into things.

The Pride of Life. Thinking too highly of ourselves can also get us into trouble.

Look at what happens to Eve... Genesis 3.

Genesis 3:6

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was **good for food** (*lust of the flesh*) and **pleasing to the eye**, (*lust of the eyes*) and also **desirable for gaining wisdom**, (*boastful pride of life*) she

took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

We should do our best to avoid sin. Be aware of the way we are tempted. **Lust of the Flesh. Lust of the Eyes. Pride of life.** Avoid certain situations and those places in our lives where we might be lured into sin.

And even with all that, we will all give in at some point and make a mistake. That's when we fully are aware of the FELIX CULPA. That even in the face of our sin, there is a Savior. God's unmerited favor; God's grace is there.

The Bible says that we will all make mistakes and separate ourselves from God by our own sin.

Romans 3:23-24

²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

That reality is not an excuse to sin, rather an encouragement not to sin. The fact that we all make mistakes, that we all will sin, we will all miss the mark; does not give us an excuse to sin, rather it should embolden us to try not to sin.

Romans 6:23

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Something is wrong in this world. There's something hanging in the air that we can't quite explain. We have been searching.

Sin is the problem. That thing that has been hanging over you your whole life, which maybe you couldn't quite see or know? **Jesus is the answer.** What are you going to do about it?

Small Group Questions.

1. Have you ever had something happen in your house or office that just threw your whole week into chaos in turmoil?
2. What is the difference between temptation and sin? Is being tempted a sin?
3. 3 ways in which we are tempted; Lust of flesh, lust of the eyes, and the Pride of life. A temptations can be put into these categories. How do we overcome these sins?
4. Read Romans 3:23 - what does it mean to be justified? What is Grace? God delights in that he get to show Grace and make is justified. What is the difference between our reaction when we are wronged and God's?