

Date : 25th January 2026
Theme : God's Story of Redemption from Genesis
Topic : Betrayal and God's response
Passage : Genesis 3
Key Verse : *...the Serpent deceived me and I ate... Genesis 3:13*

Introduction

- The problem with the word **sin**
Many people feel that the church has weaponised **sin** with threats of judgement and condemnation. We even use **sin** to measure ourselves against others — *am I better than that person?*

Rather than talking about regulatory good / bad, right / wrong, green / red light — we must seek a biblical understanding of **sin** in the relational context of Genesis 1, 2, our study last Sunday.

- **How does God initiate a relationship with man in Genesis 1, 2?**
 - God supremely destines man's design with full capacity for communion with Him when He decides to create man in His image, after His likeness. Thus, God desires a unique connectivity with man, unlike other creatures.
 - God communicates with man by blessing and commanding him directly so as to establish a relationship.
 - God appoints man as earth's regents (=rulers, in the absence of a monarch), a role requiring communicating, relating and partnering with Him in managing His world. As such, man only needs to look up to His creator for what he needs to have and to know. God's actions in Genesis 1, lay the foundation for a deep, relational connection with man from the outset.

1. Why is sin a process, not merely an act?

- a) Sin begins with thinking negatively about God.
 - What are our assumptions about God?
Do we hold hostile views about God?
Is God good?
Do we distrust God? Harbour suspicion toward God?
 - Today, we struggle not so much with whether God exists, but whether the God of the Bible is even **good**. And is He, indeed, worth my attention, time and trust.
 - How many times does the word **good** appear in Genesis 1?
Does this indicate how God feels about us?
Is there anything from Genesis 1 to reasonably begin from the posit that God is good and only good?
What sort of being could create what is only good?
Or is God half good and half bad?
 - What if we begin with a different assumption about God?
Admit that our understanding of God is limited.
 - If we trust God who is good, how will we address the question regarding God's instruction not to eat from a certain tree? Does this prohibition make sense? Can we trust God when we cannot make sense of His command?
 - God has given us the ability to exercise free will. But God also wants us to share this relationship with Him 100% out of our free will, wholeheartedly, rather than being programmed to do so.

b) What were Eve's assumptions about God?

- What did Eve know? *Genesis 3:2*
 - She could eat from any tree in the garden. (God's generosity)
 - She could not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. (God's restriction)
 - Death would result. (God's warning)
- What was Eve's own perception? *Genesis 3:2*
 - Not to touch the tree (God didn't say this).
 - She identified the restriction as the tree in the midst of the garden. But there were 2 trees.
 - She underestimated the seriousness of the consequences. She said *...you will die...* *Genesis 3:3*. God said *...you will surely die?* (she missed out *surely*) *Genesis 2:17*
- What lie did Eve believe?

The Serpent took advantage of her inaccurate rendering of God's command and declared *...you will not surely die* *Genesis 3:4*. Then instigated suspicion that God's motive was to withhold something good from her. She took the bait. She believed the Serpent.

 - That God was withholding knowledge from her. *Genesis 3:4*
 - The Serpent's lie seemed more attractive *...you will not surely die...* *Genesis 3:4*
 - The Serpent's offer seemed logical. *...the fruit was good...pleasing...desirable...* *Genesis 3:6*

Finally, when God called her to account for her choice, she blamed the Serpent. *...the Serpent deceived me and I ate ...* *Genesis 3:13*

2. Biblical meaning of sin and what this narrative teaches us

a) What is sin?

- Sin is **a choice** which distorts (*avon* = to twist / bend, iniquity) the truth. It stems from self-centeredness (looking out for me, myself & I), ignores God's instruction and redefines good and bad on our own terms. This choice is in rebellion against God's will, an assertion of independence from God's design.
- Sin is **a breach of trust** (transgression = overstepping a boundary). It is breaking trust in a relationship with God, rather than merely violating a set of rules. It is viewed as a personal, wilful and intentional breaking of sacred bonds with a good God. A refusal to uphold responsibilities which are the foundations of a love relationship.
- Sin is **a betrayal** (unfaithfulness, covenant breakers). It is a betrayal of one with whom we have a relationship and to whom we owe our all. Prioritizing personal desires over loyalty and commitment to God breaks His heart. What makes it worse is that we are so easily persuaded by God's enemy, Satan, whose name means *adversary*, *accuser* — the one whose goal it is to destroy man.

b) What was wrong with Satan's offer? *Genesis 3:5*

Satan knows what appeals to our selfish desires.

...your eyes will be opened

...you will be like God

...knowing good and evil.

All these, partially true, are used to disguise a fatal lie.

- Eyes - opened, not to divine wisdom but to their own nakedness, shame and fear. The opening of their eyes marked the immediate entrance of spiritual death which severed their perfect relationship with God. As a result, they recognised their corruption and so hid from God.
- Like God
They were already made in God's image but Satan's offer was not more godliness; rather, they usurped God's honour when they sinned by:
 - Challenging God's sovereignty and authority (violating His command).
 - Rejecting God's wisdom (defining their own good and evil).
 - Rebelling against their Creator (becoming their own gods).
- Knowledge
Satan offered them knowledge both good and evil but in its corrupted form. They already knew "good" in God's garden but now, subject to deception, this knowledge brought pain and separation from God.

c) Consequences of sin

- Playing the blame game instead of taking personal responsibility.
So Adam blamed God who gave Eve to him. Eve blamed Satan.

In our sinful nature of pride, instead of taking responsibility for sin, we push it to someone else, including God.

- Why did God prohibit the eating? (as if eating was the main issue).
- Why must He put that tree there?
- Why make such a big deal over a fruit?
- Why didn't God make man more perfect? (to avoid taking that fruit).
- A betraying nature (breaking the law of love).
That doubts God's goodness (or parents' goodness in human relationships).
That chooses to listen and to follow Satan's contrary view, and to see things from our own way, with limited vision.

3) God's response

a) What happens after Adam and Eve betrayed God. *Genesis 3:6-9*

- What did God do.
God came. Close.
- Was God yelling or speaking quietly near to from where Adam was hiding?
Instead, He called to them.
- What do you think was on God's heart, God's intention when He asked ...*Where are you?* *Genesis 3:9*.

Who is God/ What might He be trying to do to help Adam?
(Helping words: Omniscient, Seeker of people, relational, confession, self-reflection, accountability, source of shame).

iv) ...*Who told you that you were naked....* *Genesis 3:11*

What can you see about God's character from here?
(Helping words: Loving Creator, All-knowing, Seeker. Who's talking?
Providing clothing.)

- b) What does **Adam's response** show about our sin nature?
 God asked ...*Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat...*?
Genesis 3:11.
- i) What should have been Adam's answer to God?
 (Instead, what did Adam / Eve say? *Genesis 3:12, 13*)
- ii) Why didn't Adam look to God for help or admit his problem?

Application

Could this be our sin nature, our default setting to be trusting ourselves and distrusting God, to be more serious than we care to admit?

<u>My sin nature (trusting myself)</u>	<u>Looking to God for help</u>
When I lose of job _____ _____	I _____ _____
When I look for my life partner _____ _____	I _____ _____
When I am sick _____ _____	I _____ _____

Conclusion:

God works to restore man to Himself.

God's original purpose in Genesis for Adam and Eve is still His purpose for mankind today, to be in relationship with Him. The redemptive plan of Christ is God's divine response to the fall of man. *Genesis 3:15*

Sin is the result of a series of wrong choices.

We are all confronted with choices daily.

We can either commune relationally with God, bear His image and share in His Kingdom work; or we can choose to walk a path that is relying on self.

Relying on God requires faith in His Word and trusting in His goodness and love for us, specially when we face challenging times.