

## The Unoriginal Sin: Breaking Trust

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May 7, 2006 – Submerge @ the Trash Bar

We've been talking lately about the faithfulness of God and what our response should be. We've been calling it, 'covenant behavior' – trust. The biggest issue of life is whether or not we will trust God. It determines everything.

- I. Surprise: God has our best interests at heart.
  - A. Reason we really don't trust him with our lives.
    1. Fear that he will hurt us and make our lives joyless and miserable
    2. If I commit to him he'll make me take a vow of poverty or worse celibacy.
    3. Surprise! The God that Jesus reveals to us is on our side and trustworthy
    4. He's pulling for us, not against us.
  - B. Where did this distrust of God begin? Is there anything we can do about it?
    1. <sup>2</sup>The problem lies in a thing called *autonomy* – “personal independence and the capacity to make moral decisions and act on them”.
    2. Sounds healthy enough. But in the hands of sinful mankind it becomes the selfish belief that we should be able to decide for ourselves what is right and wrong, true and false rather than obediently submit to God.
    3. The highest goal of autonomy is to be all we can be and grab all the power and happiness we can get.

4. We'll oppose anyone, even God, who gets in our way.
5. Autonomy is our "Achilles heel".
6. On the surface it appears to be no big deal, even admirable.
7. But it destroys the bond of trust between God and us and makes us fatally vulnerable to Satan's lies.
8. The desire for autonomy is at the heart of the original sin that messed everything up in the first place.

- II. The story of the fall and original sin centers around God's command to Adam not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

**3** *And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."* (Gen. 2:16-17)

- A. Apparently anyone eating from this tree would gain the ability to distinguish between right and wrong.

1. What's wrong with that? If eating would make Adam and Eve morally savvy, why would God want them to stay away?
2. That's exactly the question Satan asked.

**4** *"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."* (Gen. 3:4-5)

- B. **5** Eve's selfish autonomy was stirred up by a lie: God is a killjoy that shouldn't be trusted- disobedience is justified.

1. Maybe God doesn't want them to eat from the tree because he is selfish – that he doesn't want them to become like him and to know what he knows.
2. There is an element of truth here.
3. After Adam and Eve eat from the tree, God himself admits that they have become like him, though in a way that will ultimately destroy them and their world.

C. Why is it so wrong to eat from the tree?

1. Moral discernment is a good thing but Adam and Eve seek this ability without help from God.
2. Instead of allowing God to define good and evil, they take on the job themselves.
3. Sure enough, they acquire a heightened sense of right and wrong but they no longer have God to tell them what goes into each category.
4. We can see the effects in our world: Choice is good, carrying a baby is a burden; tolerance is good, absolutes are bad; money and power are the marks of success, humility and servanthood are for losers.

D. Our world knows what good and evil mean, but people don't always know what is good and what is evil

1. The question becomes: good and evil for whom?
2. Before the fall, God, the Creator of all things, defined good and evil.
3. The inventor of morality
4. He revealed his will to Adam and Eve so they could know it too.

5. Since the fall, rather than ask what is good for God, we ask what is good for us.
6. Autonomy makes us selfish – calling good whatever makes us happy and evil whatever threatens it.
7. Our world is a mess – each person plays god in his own life, exercising autonomy, deciding for himself what is right and wrong, good and bad.
8. Of course what is good for me may not be good for you, so we fight.

#### E. Our sin is unoriginal

1. The story of the fall is repeated over and over in our lives.
2. How many times do we reject God's will and do what we want just because we want to do it.
3. How many times do we listen to Satan and give into our autonomy, reenacting the fall.

### III. We will stop living for ourselves and start trusting God the moment we realize he is good and is pulling for us

#### A. The God Jesus revealed is on our side

**6** *Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (the prodigal father) 9* *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10* *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1Jn. 4:8-10)*

#### B. We realize it's really a good thing to trust God...

**7 31** *What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32* *He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—*

*how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (Ro. 8:31-32)*

- C. People who trust God, who really believe he is on their side, are able to obey him.
- D. **8**How can you be cured of autonomy and the life of rebellion against God that it leads to? It starts with getting to know Jesus.
  1. "If you seen me, you see my Father..."
  2. His kindness leads to repentance... causing us to wake-up and return to the Father's house; to live under his direction and care.
  3. From the outside this looks like bondage, a drag
  4. But reconnected to God -this leads to new life of liberating and satisfying dependence on a God is incredibly merciful, kind, generous and strong.
  5. The way God originally meant it to be

**9***"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (Jn.15:5-8)*

- E. Are you having a problem trusting God? Obeying him? Get to know Jesus.