

I. Introduction

A. What is God's Will?

Ephesians 1:3

³ Blessed be **the God and Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as **he chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ **he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ**, according to the purpose of his will...

B. Why is Sin & Judgment Part of God's Plan?

Key Idea

Our first parents got us into sin by trusting themselves instead of God's word. Jesus frees us from their/our sin by becoming a man and obediently sacrificing his life for his bride.

II. Temptation

A. Who is the Serpent? (Revelation 12:9)

Genesis 3:1a

Now **the serpent** was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

B. The Assault on God's Goodness

1. Is God trying to keep us from good?

"Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

2. Is God really that nitpicky?

"You will not surely **die**. ..." (Cf. Genesis 2:17)

Revelation 20:14-15 (Cf. Rev. 14:9-11)

¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the *second death*, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

(Luke 13:1-5 – Galileans/Pilate; 18/Tower in Siloam)

3. Do we really need God? (Gen. 3:22)

“...For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be *like God, knowing good and evil.*”

- a. God is holding you back
- b. We need God's unlimited freedom to truly be like God

Genesis 3:22a

Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become *like one of us in knowing good and evil.* ...”

- c. Jesus reveals our true purpose (Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:15)

Philippians 2:8

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming *obedient* to the point of death...

(Cf. Luke 4:1-13 - Satan tempts Jesus)

“If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”

“...worship me...”

“He will command his angels concerning you...”

III. Adam's Sin

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her (Rom. 5:12), and he ate.

A. How are We Fooled into Sinning?

1 Timothy 2:13-14

¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but *the woman was deceived* and became a transgressor.

Proverbs 21:2

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart.

Proverbs 30:12

There are those who are clean in their own eyes but are not washed of their filth.

B. Why do we Test God?

Genesis 3:17

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ ...”

C. If Adam had Truly Loved Eve...?

Ephesians 5:25-27, 31

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as **Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her**, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and *the two shall become one flesh.*” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that *it refers to Christ and the church.*