

Week 2 - Sin

Last week, we talked about how God created us out of sheer goodness, because he loved us so much. We all know it didn't take long for things to go badly in God's creation. Let's take a look at what happened in the Garden of Eden.

Have someone read:

- **Genesis 2:15-17**

Why did God give Adam a choice? Wouldn't it have been easier to make it such that he could not make a wrong choice?

God wants to have a loving relationship with us. There is no love if love is not free. For example, a wife cannot be required to love her husband and have no choice in the matter. If she loves him, it is because she is freely choosing to love him. If she were forced to love him, it wouldn't be love at all. Love requires that free will exists.

Have someone read this next passage:

- **Genesis 3:1-6**

Before we read the next quote, what is the big deal about eating a fruit anyway? What are some thoughts about that?

The correct answer is coming up but this is to give the group a chance to reflect on why the sin of Adam and Eve was in fact a big deal. You can let the participants contribute any answers they like before moving on to the next quote from the Catechism.

Let's read what the Catechism has to say about why this was a big deal. Ask someone to read:

- **CCC 396-399**

There are a lot of important points in those sections. Can we try to summarize them?

I count 5 points but there may be more:

1. *Man is a created being, he is not equal to God. In order to live in harmony, man has to live within the reality of his creature status.*
2. *Man allowed Satan to fool him into not trusting God.*
3. *Man disobeyed God.*
4. *Man preferred himself to God and scorned God. He chose himself over God.*
5. *Man conceives a distorted image of God as being a God jealous of his prerogatives.*

Let's look at what the consequences of their sins were. Have someone read:

- **CCC 400**

Can we try to summarize the consequences of their sin?

- *Man's relationship with himself is damaged*

- *Man's relationship with others is damaged*
- *Man's relationship with the earth/creation is damaged*
- *Man's relationship with God ultimately is broken through death*

If Adam and Eve sinned, how is that our problem? We're not the ones who sinned?
As their descendants, we inherit the broken state that Adam and Eve found themselves in. Similar to how a child born to two slaves is themselves a slave, born into slavery, so we are born into the broken state of sin.

If you'd like to read the Catechism's answer to that question, you can read CCC 404
You can leave that reading optional in the interest of time.

Do you ever wonder if we're supposed to take the story of the fall of Adam and Eve as literal or figurative? The Catechism has a direct answer to that question.

Have someone read:

- **CCC 390**

Are there times when we sin in the same way as Adam and Eve? In particular, do we ever reject, even subconsciously, our creaturely status and feel entitled to some things with God? What would be some examples?

Have we allowed ourselves to think of God as against us, or holding out on us, as Satan insinuated to Eve?

What made Satan's lie so clever?

It was close to the truth. God did tell them not to eat of a particular tree, just not the one he said. His lies are powerful not because they are obvious, but because they're not.

What might it look like if we were to not believe Satan's lies and trust God as we were originally intended to?

This is an important question as it is an opportunity to envision what trusting in God's goodness might look like, and inspire faith. The important point would be that God is our loving Father and we can trust him in that way. Jesus made this point many times. We need to resist Satan's lie that God is holding out on us.

This is the bad news. The rest of this series will focus on the good news. Next week, we'll talk about how God starts to "call together all men"