

SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

- ☀ Genesis 3 records the first act of rebellion that plunged humanity into sin and death. But the story doesn't just explain failure, alienation and judgment. It explains the holy judge. What do you learn about God from the ways He responded to sin and sinners?
- ☀ God said that man would die when he ate the fruit. The serpent however, said he would not die. Which spoke the truth? How do you know? Look at (Gen. 3:7-10, 19, 22; 5:5) for help answering this question.
- ☀ Sometimes, a discussion of the curse and consequential judgment can leave people feeling hopeless and discouraged. But God doesn't want his creation to remain in a state of ruin. He doesn't want to leave mankind enslaved to sin and destined for death. What evidence does Genesis 3:21-24 show of God's plan to restore His creatures to their intended purposes?
- ☀ For further study, look at the distinction between what it means to be "in Christ" versus "in Adam." Paul develops the contrast in his letters to the church at Rome and the church at Corinth (Rom. 5; 1Cor. 15). How has Christ undone each of the effects of Adam's sin - enmity, death, toil, alienation? To what extent do we already experience the restoration Christ accomplished, and to what extent do we await the fulfillment of that restoration? Read (1Cor. 13:12; 2Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Ephesians 2:11-18; 1John 3:2) for help.
- ☀ God's love for sinners in no way eliminates his holy hatred for sin. A holy God must deal with sin, for the good of the sinner and the glory of His name. But for the sake of His beloved Son, God is willing to forgive sin. This provision of a substitute was not an afterthought, or a "Plan B." It was a divine intent before the foundation of the world. Look up (Rev. 13:8; Acts 2:23) for encouragement about God's already made provision for forgiveness and salvation.
- ☀ Take time to worship. Thank God for not destroying mankind when Adam and Eve sinned. Thank him that from the beginning He planned a solution to our problem. Praise Him for remaining perfectly just while at the same time being perfectly merciful and loving.

