

# He Became Sin

Genesis 3:1-13

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*"The doctrine of original sin is the only empirically verifiable doctrine of the Christian faith."* – Reinhold Neiburh. Sin is extremely prevalent and undeniable. Sin is breaking God's rules.

In the Garden of Eden, there was no death or decay. It was where God was always present. Adam and Eve were given complete freedom to enjoy the perfection that was found in paradise. There was only one rule and prohibition: no one was to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

v1 – The serpent was crafty (cunning) and under the control of Satan. The serpent's question to Eve (v1b) had attacked the very character of God: the serpent referred to God as *Elohim* (the transcendental God) instead of God's own personal name: *Yahweh*. The serpent presented God as impersonal and distant. The serpent also rephrased (v1c) God's one rule (Gen. 2:16-17); this portrayed God as unreasonable and overbearing.

## 4 Insights Into Sin

### **1. Sin is Sinister**

Sinister doesn't just mean evil, but also something that threatens future evil and harm. The serpent completely disregarded God's good nature. Sin does not deny the existence of God, but His goodness. Sin leads us to feel that God isn't good; this includes His rules and commands, so we disregard them.

### **2. Sin proves the Sinner**

vv2-3 – Eve, like the serpent, referred to God as *Elohim* and added her own rule on top of God's command (Gen. 2:16-17). The serpent (a beast) instructed and advised (vv4-5) Eve (human), and she listened and followed. Adam was with Eve the entire time (v6b). We know the heart of a person by looking at their actions (Luke 6:43). Everything we do is motivated by our heart (the center of a person), and it takes

an evil heart to do evil things. Sin not only makes the sinner; Sin *proves* the sinner.

### **3. Sin is Seductive**

vv4-5 – The serpent portrayed God as insecure and egoistic, and this changed Eve's attitude (v6a) which led her to eat and offer the fruit to Adam (v6b). The serpent led Eve further away from what God wanted and got her to think about what she wanted. The serpent presented sin not as breaking God's rule, but as what her heart truly desired. Our hearts are deceitful above everything else (Jer. 17:9). v7a – Adam and Eve, after eating the fruit, saw their nakedness as shameful. Their sin had opened their eyes to a world of shame. By covering their bodies, they felt comforted; their shame was being covered. In God's presence, covering up was not enough, they had to hide (v8).

### **4. Sin is both Everything and Nothing to do with Us**

2 ways of looking at God's rules

#1 God sets rules for our good – we obey because God's rules are meant to protect and bless us.

#2 God sets rules for His glory – when we break God's rules, it's all about Him (Rom. 1:23, 25, 32).

Both views are necessary! God is both good and holy; His rules are both for our good and His glory.

We are all by nature wicked and rebellious against God (Rom. 5:19a, Ps. 51:5). As God's rules become more defined, so does our sinfulness. The only answer to sin is Jesus! He came as the surprise visitor to serve and love sinners. Jesus succeed where Adam failed; He remained sinless. He suffered and was crucified (Matt. 16:21). Jesus became sin for us and makes us the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21). We are sinners, but He became sin; His life for ours.

