

**THE BEAUTY AND BLIGHT OF HUMAN LIFE: CREATION, FALL, REDEMPTION, AND NEW CREATION**  
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**Session Two: Fall of Humanity in the Sin of Adam**

- I. Nature of Temptation as Deception
  - A. Temptation always co-opts what is good to urge the rise of what is bad
    1. Augustine's insight, that evil is parasitic on good, as misdirected good, is helpful.
    2. Temptation appeals to natural and God-given needs, appetites, longings but urges us to see these fulfilled in ways contrary to God's word and God's ways
    3. Temptation succeeds when it leads us to think good is found apart from God and His ways
  - B. Temptation always employs deception to make good look bad, and bad good (Gen 3:1-7)
    1. Consider the first instance of temptation/sin in the Garden of Eden (cf. 1 Jn 2:16-17)
    2. "Good for food" – hedonist urge; I will satisfy my appetites my way
    3. "Delight to the eyes" – covetous urge; I will have what I want
    4. "Desirable to make one wise" – prideful urge; I want to be the one who's recognized
- II. Freedom of the Will in the Fall into Sin
  - A. Metaphysical Freedom (Edwards' "natural ability") – to choose what one most wants
    1. Moral sensibility is one of the most important marks of our humanity
    2. We have a moral awareness of right/wrong; moral actions; moral judgments
    3. Our freedom is a freedom of inclination: our capacity to choose what we most want
    4. Before and after the fall, the man and woman chose what each most wanted

- B. Moral Freedom (Edwards' "moral ability") – sin binds the heart to choose only evil, whereas righteousness frees (Luther's "freedom of the will") the heart to choose what pleases God
  - 1. As sinners, we always most want something sinful (*non posse non peccare*)
  - 2. We have, then, a moral inability to choose and do what pleases God (Rom 8:6-8)
  - 3. Freedom of inclination continues to function, but apart from God's grace in Christ, we inevitably have as our highest desire a strongest inclination to go against God and his ways.

### III. Consequences of Adam's One Sin for All who are "in Adam"

- A. Pollution / Corruption of human nature – total depravity and total inability
  - 1. Total depravity—every aspect of us is infected with sin (Rom 1:20ff; Eph 4:17ff)
  - 2. Total inability—we can only sin; every choice, attitude, action, is marked by sin (Rom 8:6-8).
  - 3. We are helpless to overcome sin's impact on our natures
  
- B. Condemnation that is the judgment of sin – death and separation from God
  - 1. Due to God's holiness and our sin, we are separated from God and all that He is
  - 2. Not only this, but we have incurred God's just condemnation and ultimate wrath
  - 3. We are incapable to satisfy the demands of God's justice so as to be declared not guilty