

## **Sovereign Grace Church**

### **“What We Became!” outline**

March 24, 2019

#### **Genesis 3**

*Do you know who you are? I don't mean do you know your name....I mean do you know who you really are? How would you describe yourself? Are you a good person? Or are you a bad person? Does your occupation or vocation or gifts define who you are? When I was a younger person back in the 60's it was common to hear that so-and-so is going off in order to “find himself.” My suspicion was that most folks in prior generations were too busy to appreciate the problem. It was more like Ma Kettle who, after being corrected by one of her 15 kids for getting his name wrong replied, “well, whoever you are...pass the pancakes!”*

*Many thinkers today do not believe that human beings have a “nature.” People are born neutral and develop their particular characteristics over time. There is no propensity to sin and many seem to believe that humans are naturally good. Yet such a diagnosis seems to fall short of people's actual behavior. After all, we don't have to teach our younger children to hit their siblings for crossing their little, but disproportionately powerful, wills do we! The Bible, and Christian tradition through the ages have generally taught that, although our first parents did not have a natural tendency to evil, everyone who has descended from them does. We call that a “fallen” or “sin” nature & it is a nature that we have just by being born. It is what all of us have become since the little conversation Eve had with Satan.*

*We will look at the biblical account today. After all, it would seem appropriate if we are pushing a universal need for salvation to know what we need to be saved from! So whoever you are....the Scriptures teach that you are at least a sinner...but one who bears the residual marks of God's likeness and thus are in need of redemption...if there is to be a return to the productivity and joy of fellowship with your Maker as He originally intended.*

#### **1. The Genesis Three Account**

- **Our original fellowship with God**
  
- **The Temptation vv. 1-6a**  
**John 8: 44**
  
- **Consequences 7-24**
  - **Separation from other human beings v. 12**  
**Jms 4: 1**

- **Separation from Creation vv. 1b-19 also Romans 8**
- **Separation from oneself Psm 42:5; Jer. 24:7; Rom. 7:19; 12:2; Col. 3:1; I Cor. 12:12**
- **Separation from God 2: 17**

**2. What IS sin?**

**HSC: What is sin? *Sin is any want of conformity unto or transgression of the law of God.*  
Rom. 5: 13; 7:8; 14:23**

**3. Is there Hope? v. 15**

**Questions for Conversation and Discussion**

- 1. How would you define sin? How would you explain to an unbeliever what a “sin nature” is? What would you say in response to a challenge to provide some evidence for such a statement? How can you insist that a baby is born with a sin nature when they're so darn cute! Can a sinner be cute?!?**
- 2. Do you think Eve knew she was talking to Satan in the form of a snake? Do you think that part of Satan's technique is to disguise himself? Can you think of a scripture passage that supports this idea? What are ways we can guard ourselves from getting “taken in” by Satan's masquerading proclivities?**
- 3. How do you understand the human complexity of bearing something of God's likeness in our being while also being a sinner at the same time? How might such a description lend itself to understanding the value or disvalue of the human being. How can it be said that God loves the sinner while hating the sin? How can such a phrase be helpful? How might it lead to distortion?**
- 4. So....how would you describe yourself? Do you believe that God loves you? Do you think He likes your company? Do YOU like your company? How does your understanding of who God is affect your understanding of yourself?**