



## Tree – Knowledge of Good & Evil

- *The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ... “ 16 Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Gen 2:9, 16-17*

# What Did the Learn?

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- *God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'” 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Gen 1:3-5*

# What Did They Learn?

- *Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. Gen 3:7*
- **They already knew good. They were created in the image of God.**
- **They already knew evil as God knew it ... the tree was evil and if they ate from it they died.**

# What Jesus Said

- *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. John 8:44*

- *New King James Version*

# What Jesus Said

- The Devil was a murderer from the beginning
- He was a liar and the father of it.
- The first lie ever told.
- You will not surely die.
- You will be like God.
- Both were lies. To eat of the tree would take them far away from being like God .....
- Actually made them like Satan.

# What they Learn ... We Learn

- We all experience what they experienced
- *I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. 10 And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. 11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. 12 Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. Rom 7:9-12*

# Knowledge of Good & Evil

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- ❑ Internal Confusion, Conflict and Strife
  - ❑ *For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. Rom 7:15-20*
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# Knowledge of Good & Evil

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- A Conflict between our own Flesh and Spirit
- *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.*

# Battle Between Flesh & Spirit

*For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. 15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. Rom 7:14-16*

*Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 1 Peter 2:11-12*

# The Knowledge of Good and Evil

- Evil now present in one who wants to do good
- *I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Rom 7:21-25*

## *Battle Defined – Flesh & Spirit*

✦ *So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Rom 7:21-25*

## *Battle Defined – Flesh & Spirit*

✦ *Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. Rom 7:21-25*

# More we Learn Greater the Conflict

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- Evil is not Static.
- Lust can create more.
- *But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. James 1:13-15*



## A Lifetime Conflict & Battle

- *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Gal 5:16-18*

# Where it Leads if we don't Fight

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- A Bottomless Pit
- *Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Gen 6:5*

# Only One Solution

- *For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. Rom 8:2-3*
- *So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Rom 8:12-14*