

Keep The Commandments of the Lord

- Beginning in the Garden of Eden and continuing through the Patriarchal, Mosaic and Christian eons and dispensations, on thing has never changed.
- *12 "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good?
Deut 10:12-14*

Rom. 11:33-36

- *And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul,” Deut 11:*
- *“Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always. Deut 11:1*
- *“And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul,” (Deut 11:13;*

Love = Keeping Commands

- The true essence of our love, faith and respect is seen in our submission, obedience and desire to fully obey.
- *21 If you love Me, keep My commandments.*
- *15 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.*
- *10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*
- *John 14:15 , 21; 15:10*
- It is imperative that we understand the connection between our love and obedience.

Authority of Scripture

- *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. Pr. 3:5-7*
- If we trust God, we will do what He says,
- if we add to or take from what He says,
- we are no longer trusting in the Lord with all our heart, but leaning on our own understanding.

We Don't Always Understand

- *“But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” 2Cor. 11:3-4*
- we need to understand exactly what happened, so we can avoid the danger today.
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The Command Was Given

- *Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 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. 2:16*
- God gave them everything. He held back nothing. They had every other Tree.
- This one God said was dangerous. This single tree posed a danger to them.
- God warned them so they could be safe.

Command Had a Purpose

- Each time they saw that tree, both its name, and punishment were to reverberate in their mind.
- We can't eat from that tree because God commanded us not to.
- It is a tree that brings death.
- Their proper response to that tree reflected trust, fear and devotion to God.
- A simple command with dire consequences.
- Designed to harden into a conviction that would lead them to avoid and fear it.

Creating Doubt

- The subtle serpent waited until the right moment.
- Could have been days, weeks, months or years.
- He took a direct attack, knowing that victory required a loss of trust or respect in God
- *“Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”*
- *“Indeed”* translated from two Hebrew words.
- Conveys either surprise or concern.
- *Did God actually say* ESV;
- *Did God really say* NIV;
- *Can it really be that God has said* AMP.

Doubt in God's Command

- Satan sought an emotional response by wording it this way.
- He wanted to create an emotion of surprise or doubt in Eve's mind that would make it easier to remove her conviction about God's command and thus lead her to violate it.
- This was the only way his attempted murder could succeed.

Satan Directly Contradicted God

- *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 8:44-45*
- Satan accused God of being a liar.
- *You will **not** surely die!*

Once Doubt is Created ... it is Easy

- Satan sought to make Eve believe that God did not have their best interests in His heart.
- *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. Jn. 8:44; Gen. 3:4-6*
- At any moment when any of God's servants in any dispensation are led here tragedy follows.

Eve's Outlook Changed

- She no longer saw it as bringing death.
- she now saw *a tree desirable to make one wise*.
- It only took this change of perspective to lead her to violate God's warning and bring about her own destruction.
- This is what Satan and all who follow Satan are doing even in our own day.
- The only way they can harm God's chosen people is to get us to see any of God's commands as holding us back from something we deserve in order to be happy or fulfilled.

It Can Happen To Anyone

- *“But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity in Christ.” 2Cor. 11:3-4*
- What we can easily see in Eve, we must learn to detect in ourselves.
- gravest temptations come when any need or desire we have causes us to see God’s commands are holding us back from something wonderful.
- Every command of God is actually holding us back from our own destruction!

No Command Holds us Back...

- ... from something good
- *The Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive. Deut. 6:24)*
- Every command of God only hold us back from something harmful and destructive.
- This is why we must *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding. (Pr. 3:5).*

Nothing Has Changed Since Eden

- Satan still tries to convince us we can have more if we add or set aside God's commands
- God still wants us to fully trust and obey.
- God alone sees all future consequences
- We see short term blessings only lasts here. .
- God sees the weeping and gnashing teeth in bitter sorrow.
- God is love. He only has our best interests.
- Only if we fully trust God and keep all His commandments can we be safe.

The Great Danger

- When we become convinced we can do what God has plainly warned us not to do, and we set it aside, there can only be one outcome:
- *“Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar. (Pr. 30:6)*

Multitudes Do This Today

- So many that those who trust and obey seem strange and odd.
- They perceive they are being kept back from something they desperately want.
- Some have set aside Jesus plain warnings about divorce, thinking God wants them to be happy (Mt. 19:1-9).

Motivation Always the Same

- Women who want to preach and teach see Paul's command just like Eve saw hers.
- They have an ability, but are being held back.
- They think God wants them to use it even though He warned them not to. (1Cor. 14:33; I Tim 2:8-15).
- Musicians have set aside Paul's clear command to sing and make melody in our hearts because they have the ability to play and think God wants them to use it (Eph. 5:19).

What About us?

- Is there a command holding us back?
- Everyone has something they want to set aside.
- Never forget Balak's scathing and lying words to Balaam that clearly mirror Satan's in the garden:
- *"I said I would greatly honor you, but in fact, the Lord has kept you back from honor." (Num 24:11).*
- God would never do that, but multitudes today who read the Scriptures have fallen for that lie.