

## Session Two: Fall of Humanity

### II. Fall

#### A. Nature of Temptation as Deception

1. Temptation always co-opts what is good to urge the rise of what is bad
  - a. Augustine's insight, that evil is parasitic on good, as misdirected good, is helpful.
  - b. 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
  - c. Temptation succeeds when it leads us to think good is found apart from God
2. Temptation always employs deception to make good look bad, and bad good (Gen 3:1-7)
  - a. Consider the first instance of temptation/sin in the Garden of Eden (cf. 1 Jn 2:16-17)
  - b. "Good for food" – hedonist urge; I will satisfy my appetites my way
  - c. "Delight to the eyes" – covetous urge; I will have what I want
  - d. "Desirable to make one wise" – prideful urge; I want to be the one who's recognized

#### B. Freedom of the Will in the Fall into Sin

1. Ontological Freedom (Edwards' "natural ability") – to choose what one most wants
  - a. Moral sensibility is one of the most important marks of our humanity
  - b. We have a moral awareness of right/wrong; moral actions; moral judgments
  - c. Our freedom is a freedom of inclination: our capacity to choose what we most want

- d. Before and after the fall, the man and woman chose what each most wanted
2. Moral Freedom (Edwards' "moral ability") – sin binds the heart to choose only evil
- a. As sinners, we always now most want something sinful (*non posse non peccare*)
  - b. We have, then, a moral inability to choose and do what pleases God (Rom 8:6-8)
  - c. Freedom of inclination continues to function, but we always have the highest desire to sin
- C. Consequences of Adam's One Sin for All who are "in Adam"
1. Pollution / Corruption of human nature – total depravity and total inability
- a. Total depravity—every aspect of us is infected with sin (Rom 1:20ff; Eph 4:17ff)
  - b. Total inability—we can only sin; every choice, attitude, action, is marked by sin.
  - c. We are helpless to overcome sin's impact on our natures
2. Condemnation that is the judgment of sin – death and separation from God
- a. Due to God's holiness and our sin, we are separated from God and all that He is
  - b. Not only this, but we have incurred God's just condemnation and ultimate wrath
  - c. We are incapable to satisfy the demands of God's justice so as to be declared not guilty