

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: The Purpose of the Tree****The Purpose of the Tree - posted by Logic, on: 2008/8/30 12:43**

The reason of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil.

If God never put the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil in the garden, how would Adam have to serve God or to acknowledge HIM?

The Tree serves as a link to God's authority, and by obeying the command, Adam serves God and acknowledges HIS authority.

God put the tree there to set up a way to prove love and for a deterrent of worshipping their spouse. Not for God's benefit, but for Adam & Eve's benefit.

If Adam never had a way to express his loyalty or devotion to God through obedience, Adam could have worshiped Eve in his relationship with her more than God, and vice versa.

That is what Mammon is. **Matthew 6:24** No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Mammon = that which is given to you.

Eve was Given to Adam, and if Adam did not have any connection to serve God in any way, Adam would have surly worshiped Eve and Eve would have worship Adam.

Any Thoughts?

Re: The Purpose of the Tree - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/8/30 12:50

Was Adam Given to Eve?

Re: The Purpose of the Tree - posted by theopenlife, on: 2008/8/30 12:57

Hey Logic, interesting subject.

I find this proposition difficult to swallow, without more reasoning:

"Adam would have surly worshiped Eve and Eve would have worship Adam."

I'm not convinced that in his unfallen state he would have.

I'm not concluded on this subject, but here are some other views I came across today while thinking about it:

for God to create people who could appreciate His glory and His goodness then those people would have to have at least an awareness of non-goodness and non-glory. To know God as God we would have to have some concept of not-God.

The question then raised was: So does that mean we'd have to sin? That seems wrong.

That is where the tree of knowledge of good and evil comes in. I often ask myself why God put it there. After all, it really ended up ruining things. And that's when a thought hit me. Perhaps the tree, even before it was eaten from, by its very presence and its forbiddenness, already provided knowledge of good and evil (in an innocent yet very real way).

After all, they had knowledge of good all around them: Created life as creatures in right relationship with their Creator. They had knowledge of evil right in front of them. You could disobey if you wanted to. You could have created life as

creatures in wrong relationship with Your Creator. There was God or not-God; life or not-life; good or not-good. To use Barth's words, there was Yes or No; Light or Shadow.

And so there is the tree. Just by being there it gives humankind the freedom they need to have to actually love God and experience good. Just by being there it also gives them responsibility. Trust and obey God or not. Perhaps when they bit the fruit, they already 'knew' good and evil, but now they 'knew' it in an intimate way. Interesting that a couple chapters later Adam knew Eve, and the idiom means they had sex with each other.

Wayne Grudem's take on it:

Quote:

"In the Garden of Eden, it seems quite clear that there was a legally binding set of provisions that defined the conditions of the relationship between God and man. The two parties are evident as God speaks to Adam and gives commands to him. The requirements of the relationship are clearly defined in the commands that God gave to Adam and Eve (Gen. 1:28-30; cf. 2:15) and in the direct command to Adam, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 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 die" (Gen. 2:16-17).

In this statement to Adam about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil there is a promise of punishment for disobedience—death, most fully understood to mean death in an extensive sense, physical, spiritual, and eternal death and separation from God.² In the promise of punishment for disobedience there is implicit a promise of blessing for obedience. This blessing would consist of not receiving death, and the implication is that the blessing would be the opposite of "death." It would involve physical life that would not end and spiritual life in terms of a relationship with God that would go on forever. The presence of the "tree of life...in the midst of the garden" (Gen. 2:9) also signified the promise of eternal life with God if Adam and Eve had met the conditions of a covenant relationship by obeying God completely until he decided that their time of testing was finished. After the fall, God removed Adam and Eve from the garden, partly so that they would not be able to take from the tree of life "and eat, and live for ever" (Gen. 3:22)."

Re: - posted by Logic, on: 2008/8/30 13:24

Quote:

-----theopenlife wrote:
Hey Logic, interesting subject.

Thanx & thanx for responding.

This is only a subject that I started to study.

So I don't mind objections. However, All I ask is all give correctly interpreted Scripture to back their POV up.

What I mean by "correctly interpreted Scripture" is that all people have their own interp. of Scripture, some are correct, and some are not.

When one gives a verse or makes blank statements of fact, please put a commentary of their own words of how they interpret the verse or passage of how the fact is proven.

Unless it is so very self explanatory.

Quote:

-----"Adam would have surely worshiped Eve and Eve would have worshiped Adam."

I'm not convinced that in his unfallen state he would have.

Adam and ever sinned just as we do today.

The are made of weak flesh that no one can please God with.

The cause of Adam's fall is the flesh:

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world,

1: the lust of the flesh

2: the lust of the eyes

3: the pride of life,

is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was...

1: good for food,

and that it was...

2: pleasant to the eyes.

and a tree to be...

3: desired to make one wise

she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

We are no different that they were, even before they sinned.

Quote:
-----And that's when a thought hit me. Perhaps the tree, even before it was eaten from, by its very presence and its forbiddenness, already provided knowledge of good and evil (in an innocent yet very real way)...
...They had knowledge of evil right in front of them. You could disobey if you wanted to.

I like this.
They knew about good and evil by the fact of the name of the tree.
However, they have not yet experienced evil.

Quote:
-----And so there is the tree. Just by being there it gives humankind the freedom they need to have to actually love God and experience good. Just by being there it also gives them responsibility. Trust and obey God or not. Perhaps when they bit the fruit, they already 'knew' good and evil, but now they 'knew' it in an intimate way. Interesting that a couple chapters later Adam knew Eve, and the idiom means they had sex with each other.

This is good.
However, **if** God never put the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil in the garden, **how** would Adam have to serve God or to acknowledge HIM?

Couldn't the Tree serve as a link to God's authority by obeying the command and by acknowledging HIS authority?

Re: - posted by Logic, on: 2008/8/30 13:24

Quote:
-----HeartSong wrote:
Was Adam Given to Eve?

In a way, yes.
Why not?

Re: - posted by Christin角度 (), on: 2008/9/3 15:01

Genesis 2:22-23 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

1 Corinthians 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

If man is the head of the woman, he must be the the head even as Christ is the head of the man.

Philippians 2:6-8 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

This is from the stand point of the man in this death, even giving himself for his bride.

Ephesians 5:25-28 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

If God gave woman to man, then it is his responsibility to make her as his wife or bride, presenting her even to himself holy and without blemish even as Christ has His bride the Body of Christ His Church.

This is not possible without Christ in both husband and wife, for the capacity of Christ to present unto Himself His perfect Church the Bride of Christ.

"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies."

Who did God give Christ to? His own body the Church. Same for the man and the woman. She is for the man and he is for the woman. That the two may be one flesh and bring forth fruit, that the two might be One Spirit and bring forth much fruit. The fruit of the flesh is children, the Fruit of The Spirit is; Galatians 5:22-26 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Ephesians 5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

Which is Christ in you the Hope of Glory, that brings the man and woman into the same glory in Christ and each other.

Man for woman, woman for man, both one in Christ for God and Christ by the Holy Spirit, also to each other. "Love one another even as I have loved you."

In Christ: Phillip

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2008/9/3 15:56

Thank you Phillip.

Re: The Purpose of the Tree - posted by Abide, on: 2008/9/3 16:16

Eve was Given to Adam, and if Adam did not have any connection to serve God in any way, Adam would have surly worshiped Eve and Eve would have worshiped Adam.

Yes, logic that is correct, as a shadow of things to come. It is not good for man to be alone, so God in his infinite wisdom created a helper suitable for him and her name was Eve. I will elaborate more as time permits. I'll leave you with this, obedience is better than sacrifice.

If Adam never had a way to express his loyalty or devotion to God through obedience, Adam could have worshiped Eve in his relationship with her more than God, and vice versa.

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2008/9/5 20:46

How could Adam worship Eve, when He agreed with Her in the lie of the devil and then blamed it on Her. Adam could only worship self.

How could Eve worship Adam when she was deceived and transgressed and wanted Adam to agree with her decision instead of believing Adam, to whom God gave the commandment, "Don't Eat". Eve only wanted to be self right.

They could not even worship each other, because of selfishness. Which was the major problem with Satan, putting self above God.

In God giving man to woman and woman to man, it only took 6 days to mess that up.

In Christ: Phillip

Re: - posted by Logic, on: 2008/9/9 15:23

Quote:

-----Christinyou wrote:

How could Adam worship Eve, when He agreed with Her in the lie of the devil and then blamed it on Her. Adam could only worship self.

Ada had more regard for Eve than God as he took the fruit from her.

How much more regard would Adam have for Eve, if there wasn't a tree for him to give regard to God through?

It was only after Adam sinned that he blamed Eve.

Quote:

-----How could Eve worship Adam when she was deceived and transgressed and wanted Adam to agree with her decision instead of believing Adam

That is your answer.

She wanted Adam to agree with her.

She never honored God and asked Him about it.

How much more regard would Eve have for Adam, if there wasn't a tree for her to give regard to God through?

Quote:

-----In God giving man to woman and woman to man, it only took 6 days to mess that up.

Can't be so sure in the timespan, it is only speculation.

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2008/9/9 22:34

James 1:13-15 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

This is exactly what Adam said, he blamed it on God because of the woman He gave him.

Adam already had the lust of his own flesh to set against God.

Calvin says it with much wisdom: "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me." The boldness of Adam now more clearly betrays itself; for, so far from being subdued, he breaks forth into coarser blasphemy. He had before been tacitly expostulating with God; now he begins openly to contend with him, and triumphs as one who has broken through all barriers. Whence we perceive what a refractory and indomitable creature man began to be when he became alienated from God; for a lively picture of corrupt nature is presented to us in Adam from the moment of his revolt. Not just the eating of the fruit.

'Every one,' says James, 'is tempted by his own concupiscence,' (Jas 1:14;)

and even Adam, not otherwise than knowingly and willingly, had set himself, as a rebel, against God. Yet, just as if conscious of no evil, he puts his wife as the guilty party in his place. 'Therefore I have eaten,' he says, 'because she gave.' And not content with this, he brings, at the same time, an accusation against God; objecting that the wife, who had brought ruin upon him, had been given by God. We also, trained in the same school of original sin, are too ready to resort to subtleties of the same kind; but to no purpose; for howsoever incitements and instigations from other quarters may impel us, yet the unbelief which seduces us from obedience to God is within us; the pride is within which brings forth contempt. Calvin.

This the self that Adam was depending on, instead of God. It was not Eve that tempted Adam, it was his own hearkening to a voice that he hearkened and was carried away by his own lust of self.

Scriptures and Doctrine :: The Purpose of the Tree

It was Adams responsibility to care for Eve, he could not even do this, or he would have when Eve presented the fruit, Adam would have taken her immediately to God and get it straitened out, but no Adam wanted to be like God, even in his own lust which was exactly like the father he chose, Satan, "you are of your father the devil", these even being the priest of Israel.

Adam worshiped his own self, in his own lust, and the father he chose to believe, Satan, instead of God. He certainly did not worship Eve, except for his own selfish wants. Which is not worship, but unlawful and unloving, selfish use of the woman God gave him.

In Christ: Phillip

Re: - posted by Logic, on: 2008/9/10 12:10

quoteCalvin says it with much wisdom: "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me." The boldness of Adam now more clearly betrays itself; for, so far from being subdued, he breaks forth into coarser blasphemy. He had before been tacitly expostulating with God; now he begins openly to contend with him, and triumphs as one who has broken through all barriers. Whence we perceive what a refractory and indomitable creature man began to be when he became alienated from God; for a lively picture of corrupt nature is presented to us in Adam from the moment of his revolt. Not just the eating of the fruit.

I'm not talking about after Adam sinned, This thread is about before.

Quit bringing up points for after Adam sinned.
Fact is, without the tree. Adam & Eve would have had a no way to outwardly, physically worship God which would give them no hinderence to worship each other over God.

Quote:

-----'Every one,' says James, 'is tempted by his own concupiscence,' (Jas 1:14;)

Without understanding this verse from James, anyone could say that Jesus was "tempted by HIS own concupiscence".

The word is not "concupiscence", The word is "desire" or "longing".
These "desires" or "longings" are not necessarily bad or evil. It is only how far one acts on these "desires" or "longings".

Jesus was "desiring" or "longing" for food in HIS fast in the wilderness, this was not a bad or evil "desire" or "longing".
However, if Jesus would have went to far with HIS "desire" or "longing" for food because of HIS hunger, without any regard for anyone else, name His Father, HE would have been drawn out and have been seduced by them and would have sinned.

James 1:15 Then, when this "desire" or "longing" is conceived , it brings forth sin.

- Adam & Eve took no regard for God, but only each other in their "desire" or "longing" for
- 1: food,
 - 2: the way a food should look as intended to wet and increase appetite.
 - 3: & this specific "food" had a "promise" to make one wise.
- Genesis 3:6

Quote:

-----and even Adam, not otherwise than knowingly and willingly, had set himself, as a rebel, against God. Yet, just as if conscious of no evil...

Adam knew full well what he was doing, He knew the command of God & had the intent of what he was about to do in his heart already.
He was conscious of the evil, but he suppressed the truth(in unrighteousness:Rom 1:18) of what will happen if he eats of the tree.

He lets Eve be seduced by the serpent so that she will be included in his scheme. He didn't want to leave her out because he had now put her above God(form of worship) in his unlawful desire.

Adam failed to walk after the spirit so as to not fulfill the lust of his flesh, even before he actually sinned(Romans 8:7, Galatians 5:17b)

Quote:

-----...he puts his wife as the guilty party in his place

Adam did not set Eve up as a guilty party yet, not before eatng.

Quote:
-----We also, trained in the same school of original sin, are too ready to resort to subterfuges of the same kind; but to no purpose; for ho
wsoever incitements and instigations from other quarters may impel us, yet the unbelief which seduces us from obedience to God is within us; the prid
e is within which brings forth contempt. Calvin

What's with this "original sin" stuff.
We are talking about the time befor the disobedience.

We are talking about the flesh & its works as Adam & Eve had& done even before they rebeled.

Compare 1John 2:16 to Genesis 3:6 as I have posted above:

For all that is in the world,

1: the lust of the flesh

2: the lust of the eyes

3: the pride of life,

is not of the Father, but is of the world.

This proves that they were walking after the flesh as we still do.

Quote:
-----it was his own hearkening to a voice that he hearkened and was carried away by his own lust of self.

it was not "lust of self", but lust of flesh & eyes including the pride of life.

Quote:
-----Adam worshiped his own self, in his own lust, and the father he chose to believe, Satan, instead of God.

Adam was only lovingbhimsels even as we do. Jesus even said that we love ourselves when HE said to love our neighbors **as ourselves**. The act at t
he tree wasn't a "worship" of self, but a selfishness.

A selfish worship of Eve.

Quote:
-----He certainly did not worship Eve, except for his own selfish wants.

Exactly!

Quote:
-----Which is not worship, but unlawful and unloving, selfish use of the woman God gave him.

Luke 16:13Â No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the othe
r. You cannot serve God and mammon.

There is nowhere in the scripture about self worship.

There is a "self-imposed worship" - Colos 2:23, which is actualy a self-imposed religion or worship beyond what God strictly requires; but the Scripture
se never speaks about worshiping self.

True, we may exalt ourselves beyond mesure, but that is not worship, but only pride & arrogance in excess of self esteem, selfishness; overly loving o
nes self.

However, this is only a miss placed affection of love.

One may love an object of affection, but this is not worship.

I love my wife, I do not worship her. I even love myself, but but I don't worship myself.

Self is never thought of as an object of worship, but mammon is. As I sad before, that which is given to you is mammon.

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2008/9/12 16:54

James 1:14-15 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath con
ceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Lust;

Strong's Greek Dictionary

1939. epithumia

Search for G1939 in KJVSL

epiquimia epithumia ep-ee-thoo-mee'-ah

from 1937; a longing (especially for what is forbidden):--concupiscence, desire, lust (after).

See Greek 1937

""Quote: Quit bringing up points for after Adam sinned.""

Sin was crouching at the door, and the sin of Adam was already in him to perform. After Adam sinned is only the manifestation of Adam's nature before he chose to obey the evil one.

This is what I meant by self worship;

Isaiah 2:8 Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made:

Worship the Idols, making them their God instead of the only true God.

This is mammon, exalting self above God.

Micah 5:13 Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands.

This is where without Christ, I stand in my own self worship and giving my own righteousness to the heavens which is rejected by God and without Christ I would be cut off and perish.

Job 20:2-9 Therefore do my thoughts cause me to answer, and for this I make haste. I have heard the check of my reproach, and the spirit of my understanding causeth me to answer. Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth, That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment? Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds; Yet he shall perish for ever like his own dung: they which have seen him shall say, Where is he? He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found: yea, he shall be chased away as a vision of the night. The eye also which saw him shall see him no more; neither shall his place any more behold him.

Seated in the Heavens in Christ Jesus:

Phillip