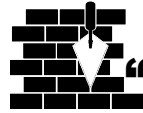


EVE - “The Slippery Slope Of Ingratitude”



“Building Blocks”

1. **(Schaeffer quote, p7)** Gratitude is *not* first and foremost an emotional or psychological attitude. It is also *not* a social politeness. Gratitude, first and foremost is a tangible (audible) expression of a right orientation towards God. It has more to do with my theology than it does my attitude.
2. **(Q2b, p8)** It is worth pointing out that Satan’s best caricature of Yahweh is that of a “cosmic cop,” a God who is constantly *prohibiting*, always pronouncing, “*Thou shalt not...*”

Satan set Eve’s mind in the direction of *prohibition* by the way he framed his question. Even though Eve will try to “defend” God, her mind is already in motion towards a negative view of Him.

It is noteworthy also, that Satan’s debut in the Bible is him questioning one of God’s children about what God has said and why He supposedly said it.

Satan’s “craftiness” is difficult to see because it’s buried in his attempt to get Eve to *agree with him* about something. Agreeing with Satan about anything is a prescription for destruction.

3. **(Q2c, p8)** It is helpful to remind ourselves that this is *God’s* garden we’re talking about here. Adam and Eve are “gardeners,” not “home owners” (Gen. 2:15)! The prohibition was in the context of their “jobs.” This is God’s garden, full of God’s trees. In a sense, God is simply saying, “*There’s one of my trees that belongs to me. The rest are yours. Don’t eat from mine.*”

(Q3, p9) Paul speaks of the Corinthians’ “minds” (*noema*) led astray by Satan. He is the only person to use this word in the NT, and all six times are in the context of mental battles over truth. Four of them are in direct connection to spiritual warfare (2 Cor 2:11; 4:4; 10:5; 11:3).

The other occurrences of “led astray” (*phtheirō*) give added insight into the power and devastation of the enemy (1 Cor 3:17; 15:33; 2 Cor 7:2; 11:3; Eph 4:22; 2 Pet 2:12; Jude 10; Rev 19:2).

4. The English word/phrase “devotion” is absent in the Greek. The focal point for Paul is the breach of relationship, the loss of a heart committed to Jesus. Eve’s affections *for* God (feelings) followed her misconceptions (conclusions) *about* God.



“Stumbling Stones”

1. **(Q1, p7)** While it is tempting to speculate on the questions the account of Adam and Eve’s sin raises (e.g. “*Why did God create the human race when he KNEW this would happen?*” etc.), the truth is, we don’t know. In fact, our insistence on an “answer” and the failure to get an adequate one, may very well propel us into the arena of ingratitude! Do NOT spend time on this line of questioning.

2. **(Q2, p8)** The “tree of life” was also in the garden, and *could* have been eaten by Adam and Eve at any time. But, they are barred from that tree forever because of their sin. The “tree of life” reappears in Scripture, again in a garden, but this time in eternity (Rev 22).

We do *not* know what would have happened if they *had* eaten of the “tree of life” first because they didn’t!
3. **(Q4, p9)** The “futility of their thinking” Paul speaks of here is the *fruit* of refusing to be a “grateful creature” before a generous Creator. *That* is the beginning of the slide to darkness that we see here. This is *not* merely an intellectual or attitudinal issue—something that can be remedied by more adequate teaching. It is the reflection of a moral choice to assert my autonomy, to refuse to kneel as a creature before God.
4. **(Q5b, p9)** It would be easy to miss the point here. Romans 1:21-32 is the graphic description of a “journey” that begins with a *refusal* to be a “grateful creature” before a generous Creator. We’d like to think to ourselves, “*I would never do that!*” or “*I will never become that type of person!*”

Ingratitude and pride are the first steps on a journey *away* from God, into darkness. Their success is a product of how “innocent” they seem compared to the list of sins at the end of this chapter (sexual perversion and a glorification of depravity).
5. **(Q6, p10)** Christians often think they are adequately addressing this issue with the cute cliché, “an attitude of gratitude.” Paul is *not* speaking of an “attitude” here, he’s referring to a disciplined behavior—something I actually *do* with my mouth.



“Going Deeper”

1. Based on your answers to Question 2a-d, do you think the movie title, *The Devil Wears Prada* is true? Explain.
2. **(Q3, p9)** After looking at *how* Satan deceived Eve (i.e. his method), *what* was Eve actually deceived about? (look carefully at 3:4-5).
3. How is the description of God’s creation in Genesis 2:9 similar and different from Eve’s perception of it in Genesis 3:6? Do you see any significance in this? (A desire for autonomy and a quest for power are at the heart of Satan. He seeks to reproduce himself in the lives of those who bear God’s image.)
4. **(Q5, p9)** What were your answers here? (Note: It’s vital that their responses include some reference to *both* 2 Cor. 11:3 *and* Romans 1:21-32. The bigger and more significant their connection, the better.
5. The one thing the 2 Corinthians and Romans passages have in common is that they *both* speak of a life in retreat of God.
6. **(Q6, p10)** “Multi-tasking,” the supposed ability to do two things at the same time is a buzz word in our culture. Do you think it’s possible to *give thanks* (verbally) and *be ungrateful*? Defend your answer. (**Note:** The inability to *give thanks* and *be ungrateful* is at the root of the command to “*give thanks in all circumstances...*” (1 Thess 5:17). This should *not* be misunderstood as someone *thinking* about more than one thing at one time. The issue here is *focus*. We are unable to *look* in two directions at the same time. The same is true of the gaze of our soul. Some might say it’s possible for my

mouth to be saying one thing and my heart the opposite. While this is true, it can *not* happen without me *being aware of it*. Then, more than ever, I'm faced with the truth that giving thanks (honestly) is a choice!

7. **(Q7, p10)** Have everyone share their responses here. (**Note:** There are *two* questions here, not just one. And, their responses to the second one are more important than the first.)
8. (Q8, p11) Share responses here. Ask them what they think is the relationship, if any, between gratitude and contentment.



“Brainstorming”

1. Psalm 69:30-31 speaks of “magnifying” God through thanksgiving. While it is true that I can’t possibly make God “bigger” than He is, it is also true that I *can* make Him “bigger” than He appears. Discuss how to practically do this in your group each week.
2. Two crucial truths about God are that He *is* God, and that He is *good*. Eve came to doubt both of these because of ingratitude. Talk about how this has played itself out in their lives.
3. Read aloud and pray through (as a group) Psalms 50:23 and 69:30-31.
4. Make a commitment to memorize one of these passages and go over it together next week.