

## A Very Bad Turn

Number three in a nine-part series on what we believe  
September 26 & 27, 2009

*From the very beginning, human history has been the story of one turn after another away from God. This downward spiral results in people being lost and alone. The example set in the opening act of all creation reveals the pattern that we still follow today. It is a series of disastrous decisions that includes...*

### 1. The choice to reject God's Word.

Gen. 3:1-3

*• We can decide to accept God's Word as the final authority, \_\_\_\_\_ to it or \_\_\_\_\_ our own rules.*

### 2. The choice to disregard consequences.

Gen. 3:4,5

*• We can decide to no longer play pretend, thinking that we can \_\_\_\_\_ with anything we do.*

### 3. The choice to distrust God's goodness.

Gen. 3:6a

*• We can decide to rely on God and not turn to alternative and illegitimate ways to \_\_\_\_\_ our own \_\_\_\_\_.*

### 4. The choice to neglect our responsibilities in relationships.

Gen. 3:6b

*• We can decide to never slip into \_\_\_\_\_ or selfish \_\_\_\_\_.*

### 5. The choice to avoid an intimate relationship with God.

Gen. 3:7-10

*• We can decide to no longer miss out on the very \_\_\_\_\_ we were \_\_\_\_\_.*

## Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. Have you ever had contact with a church that seemed to be adding its own list of rules, going beyond what the Bible says? How do people typically respond to such legalism?
2. Some could say that adding to the Bible is as dishonoring to God as subtracting from it. What do you think? See Rev. 22:18,19.
3. Do we have to get it all together and jump through a series of hoops in order to be accepted by God? What did Jesus say (Matt. 11:28-30)?
4. Why did God take the risk he did in creating beings that would exercise their freedom and rebel against him?
5. Despite the severe consequences of our failures, God has made promises that give us hope. See Lamentations 3:19-24 for a lift out of the sorrow of our fallen condition.
6. Do you find yourself relating to Eve when it comes to your doubts that God will really take care of you? What will help you regain confidence in his provision for your needs?
7. In 1 Tim 2:14 we read that Adam is the one who bears culpability for the fall of our race. Why? And how are we tied into his sin? See Rom. 5:12 in its context. And see Rom. 5:17 as well for the good news!
8. In general, what makes people want to hide from God? More specifically, what motivated you to remain at a distance?
9. For extra study on the nature and *extent* of sin, please see Gen. 3:6; Ps. 14:1-3; 51:4; Is. 64:6; Jer. 17:9; Mk. 7:21f.; Jn. 8:34f.; Rom.

3:9-20; 5:10; 7:14-24; 8:7; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 4:17f.; James 3:5-9; 2 Pet. 2:19. For more material on the *effects* of sin, see Gen. 3:17-24; 4:14; 19:1-12; 1 Sam. 31:1-6; Ps. 90:5-10; Eccl. 1-2; Is. 5:8-23; Rom. 1:18-32; 8:19-23; Eph. 2:1-3; James 5:1-6; 2 Pet. 3:5-10.

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• *We can decide to never slip into indifference or selfish independence.*

## **5. The choice to avoid an intimate relationship with God.**

Gen. 3:7-10

• *We can decide to no longer miss out on the very reason we were created.*