



Living Well

Eve's Legacy



Ed Edwards
President

Donna Edwards
Executive Director

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She took from its fruit and ate ...

Check out these websites for more information:

- For more detailed information about the ministry - www.livingwellok.org
- Photos and writings about the ministry - www.livingwellok.blogspot.com
- Encouragement/culture on marriage - www.livingwellinmarriage.blogspot.com
- Marriage events in the state, resources for marriage - www.marriagenetworkok.net
- Making Marriage Memorable blog - www.marriagenetworkok.nblogger.com

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Genesis 3:6

The first couple had some time of living the dream - walking with God in a perfect environment (the garden), with perfect weather, perfect bodies (perfect health), and all the time in the world to enjoy each other (no kids yet!).

Satan came to discredit God and separate man and woman, God's highest creation, from God. He used lies and deceptions to lure Eve. It worked; she took the bait.

Instead of having confidence in God's Word and His character, **she decided on her own whether she should**

eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Satan deceived her with words such as "Did God really say ..." (**challenging God's word**) and "You will not surely die." (**you can sin and nothing will happen to you**) and "You will be like God." In the last statement, the original language does not have "like", **he is saying "you will be a god."**

From her perspective, she looked at the fruit and made her own judgment call, ignoring God's warning. In her view, she saw a fruit that would taste good, **satisfy her physical desires.** She saw something that had beauty; **she wanted to possess this beautiful object of her desires.** And she concluded that **it would make her wise, like God.**

As she came to these conclusions, she might have even thought **Adam agreed since he never said anything to Satan or to her.**

After she ate, she shared her fruit with her husband who was with her. The world has never been the same. Those decisions profoundly affect marriage and every relationship, most of all, our relationship with God.



Satan tempts us with the same lies and deceptions today. (see the article below)

Even though most of us do not have the audacity to say that we can be like God or be our own God, **we too decide that we can make up our own mind,** that we can make our own decision about an action, regardless of what God says.

The Great Deception

Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." Genesis 3:13

And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. 1 Timothy 2:14

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:3

Eve was tempted to sin by the deceptions of Satan. The enemy specializes in lies and deceptions. Satan uses the same methods with us today. He deceives us through challenging God's word and His character.

Deceptions are usually harder to identify than blatant lies. Often a deception has an element of truth but is not the whole truth leading the listener to a false conclusion. Or in the case of Eve, **Satan questioned the truth, God's Word.**

The questions and the lies led Eve to believe that God would not punish her and that she could make her own decisions apart from Him.

Satan deceives us in the same way - I can sin and get away with it. I can make my own decisions. I can decide on my own what is good or bad.

As Paul warned, we can be lead astray from our devotion to the Lord.

On the reverse side:

Legacy in Marriage

Who's in Control?

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.livingwellokc.org
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The legacy in marriage

From the moment sin entered the human experience, **marriage became complicated.**

How does this issue of control play out in many American homes?

One scenario is when the husband is passive at home and focuses on his work. Often the husband isn't really aware of what the needs of the household are or what is going on with the children. Instead of trying to inform him and make decisions together, the wife may take the initiative to

handle it alone and make the decisions that are required. She may be quite capable of handling the situation. By making the decision without input, she thinks that she will get what she wants, which she believes is the best solution. But she has eliminated the possibility that her husband may have another or even better perspective. If he disagrees with or objects to her decision, she attacks him.

Another scenario occurs when a husband does make a decision or takes an action without input

from his wife. This case illustrates the idea of a husband "ruling over" his wife, whether he realizes it or not. Many times she will respond by disagreeing with his decision and belittling or attacking him for it, sometimes in front of others. Or she may not disagree with his decision but is angry that he didn't consult her, so she berates him. **The battle escalates.**

A third scenario may occur when the couple discusses a situation. Whenever the husband offers his thoughts

or feelings on the subject, the wife criticizes or puts down his view. She devalues his opinion and his role. **In this case, the husband often withdraws, avoiding further conflict as long as possible.**

In all of these scenarios, many men will withdraw from the battle and from his wife completely. He feels disrespected. **Instead of oneness, the couple hardens their hearts towards each other and becomes more isolated.**

Control

Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you. Genesis 3:16

Instead of pursuing the oneness in marriage that God intended, **husband and wife would now enter a battle for control.** They came to this place by believing the lies of the enemy, **we continue in the battle today for the same reason.**

When God said that Eve's desire would be for her husband, he is not saying that she will have a pleasurable desire for him. The word for desire that is used here is the same word for desire that He uses in

Genesis 4:7 when He is talking to Cain, "But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; **it desires to have you,** but you must rule over it." The word desire in both of these passages means **a desire to control.** So, God is telling Eve that from that point forward, **she would desire to control her husband** but he would try to rule over her, rather than lead her. Many battles in marriage are waged over who is going to be in control.

Our natural tendency is to take the reins, to take the initiative ourselves; ironically, however, because of the way God created us, we also long to be responders; we long for our men to take

*action.... As women we are quick to fault men for being passive and to insist that if they weren't so inactive - if they would just do something - we would not take matters into our own hands.... But as I have watched men and women interact and have evaluated the effect of my own reactions in these sort of settings, I can't help but wonder to what extent we women have demotivated and emasculate the men around us by our quickness to take the reins rather than waiting on the Lord to move men to action. (Nancy Leigh DeMoss in *Lies Women Believe*)*

It doesn't mean a wife doesn't express her opinion, but then she waits. *Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.* Psalm 27:14