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¹⁶ AND THE LORD GOD COMMANDED THE MAN, "YOU ARE FREE TO EAT FROM ANY TREE IN THE GARDEN; ¹⁷ BUT YOU MUST NOT EAT FROM THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, FOR WHEN YOU EAT FROM IT YOU WILL CERTAINLY DIE." GENESIS 2:16-17

TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD & EVIL

TREE OF LIFE

Must DO MORE to get to God

Receive the fact that Jesus has already done it

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me. JOHN 5:39 - 40 NIV

Keep trying to win God's approval

Already loves me based on what HE did, not what I do

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ROMANS 5:8

Obey God out of Duty

Obey God out of Delight

³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 JOHN 5:3, 12 NIV

Bondage, The Law, Leads to Death
God is only a judge, we are condemned

Freedom, Grace, Eternal Life
God is Good, God is Forgiving

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ROMANS 5:1

Produces Shame & Victimization
Produces Blame & Self Condemnation
Lacks power to transform the heart

Produces Trust & Deliverance,
Produces Innocence, Transformation,
and Freedom

4 RESPONSES TO THE TREE OF LIFE

1. Fall in love with Jesus. John 14:15
2. Serve God through relationship, not rules. Matthew 5:17
3. Respond to all sin with life. Romans 8:1 NIV
4. Guard your heart from going back.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO BE GODLY?

Deuteronomy 30:19 NIV

TRUTHS ABOUT THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD & EVIL

1. The fruit is **KNOWLEDGE**. It is not wrong to seek knowledge. The key is in understanding why you want to pursue it. **GODLY** wisdom allows me to become more like Him which calls me closer to Him. **WORLDLY** wisdom leads to sin, which alienates me from **GOD**.
2. The fruit is **DEADLY**. The need to know is in direct opposition to the desire to trust. Adam and Eve didn't die physically, they died spiritually.
3. The fruit is **CONSUMED**. We feed upon ideas and then sin is conceived. Sin begins with the **THOUGHT**, not the **ACT**.
4. The fruit causes **SEPARATION**. God did not hide from Adam and Eve—they hid from God. God searched for them because **HE** loved them. When we see **HIS** heart, we can run **TO HIM**, not run **FROM HIM**.

Eating from this tree causes shame and victimization. Shame causes us to separate from God. Victimization causes us to blame others.

DISCUSSION:

1. Which tree do you currently live from?
2. Are there things in your past that have caused you to want to hide from God? If so, why did you want to hide?
3. What are some ways you may have gotten caught up in religion and the Law versus the freedom and grace that result from a relationship with God?
4. Have you ever been overcome by shame?

PRAYER

Pray that during our time of study, God will correct any incorrect view of Him and that we will be able to see Him as a loving Father who is searching for you.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas in which you have operated out of shame and victimization.



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