

Innocent but not Ignorant

A thought from our reading in Genesis 1-3

As I was reading our first passage of our Bible reading plan for the new year I took note of the fact that the serpent told Eve that she would know “good and evil” if she ate the fruit of the tree. I think I missed this fact in part, in as much as I have always communicated that Adam and Eve were created in innocence (i.e. not under the influence or power of sin). However, because they had free will and were in the dominion position, they had to have known what evil is or what the word “evil” meant. I may not even be using the right word in saying they were created in innocence, but one thing is clear: If our first parents were created in "innocence" they were not created in "ignorance".

Eve in her response to what the serpent told her was already acting out to a certain extent what the serpent said was only synonymous with God; know(ing) (i.e. acknowledge, to become acquainted with, to appoint) what was good or evil (Gen 3:5-6). Her perceptions may have been off, but she was already operating in what the enemy of our souls used as a bargaining chip. I looked at the NASB exhaustive concordance and saw that the word “evil” in the Hebrew means “distress, misery, harm, hurt, ruin, trouble, unpleasant, wickedness”. Deciding what is right for me or what might cause hurt or trouble for me or others is a big thing, and apart from the knowledge or inspiration of the Creator it is impossible for someone to know these things. This highlights all the more why Eve’s deception and decision were so grievous.

I believe this highlights the fact that no matter how much we know, or how much responsibility we have, our dominion position is still -and always will be- subject to our God and Creator. There is simply too much information we do not have about ourselves, other people and other things, and we must trust and submit to the one who has not only all the information, but also ultimate authority.

- Pastor Michael