

Thursday, February 7

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Being like God

"Funny" isn't it - when we're given everything, we still want to imagine something's missing.

4-5 The serpent told the Woman, ... You'll be just like God, knowing everything, ranging all the way from good to evil."

from Eugene Peterson's The Message.

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We just got back from the surgeon doing a Mohs procedure on Carolyn, a lot like the melanoma removal I had (under anesthesia) a couple years ago. And the nurse knew everything - what the doctor would do, how it would feel, what to do afterwards - but we still wanted to '*know*' more: will this take care of it? will it return? does it go somewhere else? etc. etc. etc. We want to know '*everything*'.

The good news starts with our being given '*everything*' as God forms us from the clods of dirt, breathes into us the breath of life, puts us in the garden, and describes our responsibility - 1) to receive all this love, and 2) to love. The first part of 2) is spelled out quite simply:

15 GOD took the Man and set him down in the Garden of Eden to work the ground and keep it in order.

All we have to do is take care of - everything! The first step God takes with us is to make us 'like God,' in charge of, responsible for, caretakers of, company reps for, stewards of - everything.

But... 6 When the Woman saw that the tree looked like good eating and realized what she would get out of it—she'd know everything!—she took and ate the fruit and then gave some to her husband, and he ate.

We want to make up our own definition of "know" and our own description of "everything." We want to 'be like God' in our own way. Sounds a lot like a two-year-old, "Me do." Or a teen, "I think...." Or the new employee, "I always...."

What's so hard, God, about 'being like you' by letting ourselves be loved by you and loving?

A Way to Pray – Counting Gifts

- ✓ Fill a bowl – seeds, beans, spools, cornflakes,...
- ✓ Name 1 gift God's given you
- ✓ and Move 1 seeds (bean, flake,...) to a 2nd bowl
- ✓ Say "Thank you, God" as you move each from the 2nd bowl into your hand
- ✓ Hold both hands together, palms upward, in silence, for a minute to let God's love pour into you.

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.

