

OUR SUITABLE HELPER

Gen 2:16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

Gen 2:17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

Gen 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

The natural tendency of man is to focus on negatives. This propensity came with the fall. If you would ask most people about what God commanded Adam in the Garden of Eden, they would say, "He was forbidden to eat". God did command Adam not to eat of one tree, but we are missing the other command God gave which preceded the command not to eat. God first commanded Adam **to eat!** God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden **you may eat freely**" We lose sight of God's command on what we can have and focus on what we can't! Adam and Eve had a super buffet before them but allowed Satan to take their focus off of that and put it on the single tree they were not to eat of. This is Satan's tactic. He is always trying to get us to focus on the negative, what we don't have, or what we should not do. Religion is really based upon lack and what is forbidden. Religion is all about trying to obtain and abstaining. Grace is all about believing you have received and partaking! If Adam and Eve would have stayed focused on all that God had provided for them and what they could have, then this single tree would have not posed a problem to them. However, Satan got Eve's eyes off all the trees she could have.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

Notice that the serpent tried to create a sense of lack in Eve by saying, "Indeed has God said, you may NOT eat from ANY tree of the garden?" He was baiting her attention to the only tree she could not have to get her eyes off all the other trees she did have! Some would say that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil got to Eve because it was more attractive than the other trees because it was pleasant to the eyes

and good for food. This is not the case. All the trees God gave to Adam and Eve were pleasant to the eyes and good for food!

Gen 2:9 Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow **every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food**; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

So what did the tree of the knowledge of good and evil present to her that the other trees did not? The promise of providing something she felt she did not have! The serpent had convinced her that she was not like God, even though we see in Gen. 1:26-27 that Adam and Eve were created in God's image and were like Him already! The serpent promised Eve that if she would eat from this forbidden tree that she would gain something she did not have. Man cannot stand lack. That is why commercials today try to create a sense of lack in you that their product will remove. All of the temptations that mankind face have at the root of them this sense of lack and the promise of fulfillment. How is man to overcome temptation?

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Before God made Eve he put Adam in the Garden of Eden. He commanded him to freely eat of all of the trees, but of the one tree he could not eat. Immediately after he commanded man not to eat of the one tree the Bible says, **THEN** the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone, I will make a helper suitable for him." It was as if when God commanded Adam not to eat from the tree, He said **NOW** that I have made this negative command, the man needs a suitable helper! This is the case for mankind. God knows that we cannot fulfill His command ourselves. We need a suitable helper! Unfortunately, Eve did not help Adam keep God's command, but thank God we have another helper that has come to our aid in keeping God's Law. Many read the

Ten commandments in Ex. 20 but stop reading after the tenth commandment. The chapter continues after the tenth commandment

Exo 20:24 'You shall make an altar of earth for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen; in every place where I cause My name to be remembered, I will come to you and bless you.

Exo 20:25 'If you make an altar of stone for Me, you shall not build it of cut stones, for if you wield your tool on it, you will profane it.

Exo 20:26 'And you shall not go up by steps to My altar, so that your nakedness will not be exposed on it.'

Immediately after God gave man the Law, He instituted animal sacrifices. Why? Because he knew man needed a suitable helper! What God was revealing to mankind symbolically in creating Eve and marriage is that man can't fulfill the demands of God himself. It would only be through a helper and through a union that he could meet God's demands!

Jesus Christ is our suitable helper when it comes to fulfilling all of God's demands. Jesus Christ came to earth and lived a perfect life under the Law to obtain a perfect righteousness that could be imputed to a man who believes upon Him. Jesus died on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for all the sins of mankind. Jesus Christ is the perfect sacrifice. Jesus Christ is also a suitable helper to us in temptation. Instead of focusing on what we must abstain from, we can turn to Christ and partake of Him! Instead of focusing on what we don't have, we can relish in the garden of Christ and be filled. When Satan comes to offer you something you don't have or should not have, turn to Christ and partake of His fulness and see Satan run! Christ is our suitable helper. We are in union with Christ. We are married to Him. If we will look to Him to supply all for us then we will stand victorious against Satan's lies and temptations!