

EFCDP SERMON NOTES • February 2, 2025

Series: *Did God Really Say?*

“The Confidence of the Critical Mind” • Genesis 3:1-13

The Big Idea: *We can develop the confidence of the critical mind by knowing how Satan works, what sin does, and how God responds to our failures.*

1. We must understand Satan's tactics to destroy us.

Vv. 1-6

2. We must understand the impact of sin.

Vv. 7-8

3. We must receive the grace God offers us.

Vv. 9-13

Digging Deeper

A guide for personal and small group study for the week of February 2, 2025.



→ Was any part of the message unclear? Which aspect of the message do you think will be the most challenging to apply to your own life?

→ Do you agree with the “big idea” of this passage? Why or why not?

1. Do you know someone people regard as being gullible? If so, what falsehoods have they believed? What impact has their lack of discernment had in their life? Do you think that person is aware it would benefit them to have a more critical mind? Why or why not?

2. Explain the difference between having a critical mind and a critical spirit. Why does this matter?

3. In Genesis 3, why do you think Satan (as a snake) chose to speak to Eve rather than Adam?

4. Read Genesis 1:28, 2:15, 2:18, 1 Corinthians 11:9, and Ephesians 5:23. What do these passages teach about God’s design for leadership? In what two ways did Satan tempt Adam and Eve to ignore God’s design for leadership?

5. What role did doubting God’s loving provision play in Adam and Eve’s sin in Genesis 3:1-13? How have you observed this same doubt impact your life/obedience to God?

6. Read 1 Timothy 2:12-14. What does Paul teach about the proper leadership structure in the local church? Why reason does Paul give that indicates this pattern was not restricted to a particular cultural situation or period of history? How might this passage relate to Genesis 3:1-13?

7. Read Ephesians 5:21-33. Summarize the principles that God outlines in this passage for husbands and wives. Explain how Paul's instructions for the husband rule out harsh, demanding domination of the home by the husband?

8. Review Genesis 2:15 in light of the previous question. Given that the word "keep" means to guard and protect, how would you describe God's design for Adam's key roles in the home? What part did his failure to follow God's instructions play in Eve's sinful decision in Genesis 3:6?

9. How common is it today that men understand their key God-given roles in the home? What impact has this failure had on our general society? How were these roles expressed in your family of origin?

10. How would you describe Eve's role in the home, based on Genesis 2:18 and 1 Corinthians 11:9?

11. What impact has ignorance of God's design for leadership in the home and in the local church had in our culture? Did you experience this impact in your family of origin? If so, describe.

12. Read Genesis 3:16-19. This passage outlines some of the consequences of sin. What are they? What additional consequence is described in Genesis 3:20-24?

13. How have you seen sin cause separation in relationships between people, and between people and God? What consequences have you personally experienced because of unbiblical leadership patterns?

14. Would you agree that a key leadership dysfunction in our world could be described as domineering women and passive men? Is this a fair description of Genesis 3:1-13? If so, why or why not?

15. Read 1 Peter 3:1-7. What parallels, if any, do you see between this passage and others you read in this study? How does this passage would rule out a man using his position of leadership in a harsh, domineering way?

16. How could the tragedy described in Genesis 3:1-13 have been avoided? Would increasing biblical literacy today help? If so, how?

Application Ideas:

1. Read a book that explains how Satan works, such as “The Adversary,” by Mark Bubeck, or “God’s Devil,” by Irwin Lutzer.

2. Read “How to Apply the Bible,” by Dave Veerman. Every Christian should read this book!

3. Read your Bible so you know what it actually says! According to research, only 11% of Christians have actually read the entire Bible once.

4. When you sin, immediately confess it to God and to the people your sin has impacted.

5. Memorize verses such as John 3:16, Romans 5:8, and Romans 8:1. Rejoice in God’s grace to you! Share it with others.

→ Which of these will be the most challenging for you to personally apply?