



MAN'S FREE WILL

GENESIS 2:15-17

Do you ever think about what choice you would have made that day if you had been in Adam's place?

- Adam had been created in the very image of God and was given dominion over the entire physical and biological creation.
- Furthermore, the world Adam was to live in was a beautiful garden, a perfect, sin-free, luxurious environment in every way.

THE BIG QUESTION

Why would God create man at all, or a time-space-matter universe in which man would dwell?

- What God does must be right, must be rational; by definition He can't make mistakes because He is perfect. He made the clay and owns it!
- God's word assures us that God is love and that He loves all people. So His motivation must be primarily love.

WHAT IS LOVE? AGAPE

Love is a fully reciprocal relationship.

- Love cannot be demanded, extracted, coerced or it is just an obligation to obedience!
- Love, by its very nature, must be 100% voluntary; **it is validated through the choices we make!**
- So if Adam was free to love God on his own initiative, he was obviously also free not to love God. Love is a free will decision.

MEANINGFUL WORK AND RIGHT CHOICES

Even though a perfect world as God made it, work was necessary for man's good.

- Idleness has never been a good thing! **PROV. 14, 18, 19 and 22** are filled with warnings of idle hands.
- Adam was to be the first in a long lineage of eco-friendly caretakers—the first conservationist!
- Enjoy the fruits of your labor, Adam, just don't eat of that one tree. One rule, one choice!

WE WERE NOT CREATED TO DIE! v. 17

Adam's disobedience brought death.

- The moment Adam disobeyed God, the principle of decay and death would begin to operate in his body.
- Even though his body continued functioning biologically for over nine hundred years, he died **spiritually** and began to die **physically** the very day he rejected and disobeyed the word of God.
- Two deaths. **REV. 20:14-15**

GOD WANTED US IN HIS GARDEN

God wanted us in a love-filled garden forever; but we chose weeds, thorns, thistles—the desert of death.

- He wanted us to be well watered and we chose draught and disaster.
- Now Adam would be able to compare the goodness of God's creation, His character, the relationship that was once alive and good, with the shame of his own evil, of wanting life on his own terms.

IT'S A LIFE OR DEATH CHOICE

- I believe that the fruit of the tree in **verse 17** allowed Adam and Eve to have awareness of good and evil, and the act of choosing disobedience actually caused death, both physically and spiritually.
- We must all individually choose: life or death.

DEUT. 30:17-19

God wanted Adam to have a choice so that he could have a love relationship with Him!