

The Questions God Asks

Part 1

Pastor Mark Lehmann

¹ The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?” ² “Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. ³ “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’” ⁴ “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. ⁵ “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.” ⁶ The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful, and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So, she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. ⁷ At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So, they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. ⁸ When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man[a] and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So, they hid from the Lord God among the trees. ⁹ Then the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.” ¹¹ “Who told you that you were naked?” the Lord God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.” ¹³ Then the Lord God asked the woman, “What have you done?” “The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”

Genesis 3:1-13 NLT

Where Are You?

- The God who created you asks, “Where are You?”
- The God who you have sinned against asks, “Where are You?”
- The God who loves you and seeks after you asks, “Where are You?”

“Humankind is not permitted to remain alone in its sin; God speaks to Adam and halts him in his flight. Come out of your hiding place, out of your self-reproach, out of your cover-up, out of your secrecy, out of your self-torment, out of your vain remorse. Confess who you are, do not lose yourself in religious despair, be yourself. Adam, where are you? Stand before your Creator.”

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Who Told You, You Were Naked?

“The Lord wraps Himself in light as with a garment.”

Psalm 104:2 NIV

Who Told You?

How the Enemy Works:

- Distraction
- Temptation
- Accusation
- Intimidation

Who Told You to Pass the Blame?

- God Gives an Answer

“The Lord God made for Adam and his wife garments of skins and clothed them.”

Genesis 3:21 ESV

“For God made Christ who never sinned, to be the sin offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT

“He Himself is the atoning sacrifice that atones for our sins-not only our sins but the sins of all the world.”

1 John 2:2 NLT

"This is not make-believe. You are indeed guilty in yourself, but God no longer regards you as guilty, because the guilt of your sin has already been borne by Christ as your substitute. The sentence has been served. The penalty has been paid. As Paul says you have died to sin's guilt."

-Jerry Bridges

- Seeking Refuge, No More Hiding

"The way to no longer feel guilty is not to deny guilt, but to face it and ask God for God's forgiveness."

-Randy Alcorn

"All believers have two names: the old name, 'child of Adam,' and the new name, 'child of God.'"

-Anonymous