

## July OPEN Text Questions // the Fall //

1. If Adam and Eve were perfect why did they sin? Do perfect people sin? More importantly why did God put the dumb tree there?

Remember — One of the things that makes men (and angels) morally perfect is freedom. God made us that way so that we could be like Him and love freely. God created the FACT of Freedom — as free moral agents we perform the ACTS of Freedom. **God made** Evil POSSIBLE — **Men made** Evil FACTUAL. Imperfection came through the abuse of our moral perfection.

2. Since original sin was when Satan rebelled against God, where did Satan's sinful nature come from?

Essentially you are asking - What made Satan sin? That is like asking what caused the first cause. Nothing outside of his own free will caused him to sin. Satan himself was the first cause of his sin — and you can't go back any farther than that. When WE sin — ultimately we (by our wills) are the cause of the evil we do.

3. Many people, even Christians, interpret the fall in mythological terms. Why is it important for us to interpret Genesis 3 literally and how do we defend this?

Jesus was very clear in referencing a literal Adam and Eve. Jesus was very clear in saying that EVERY WORD was inspired by God. The New Testament references the temptation deception of Eve in the Garden. Shame on professing Christians for not taking God at His Word. They have already fallen pray to the CHALLENGES of Satan in the Garden - Did God really speak?

4. Could Adam and Eve have possibly gotten saved?

We know that men and women of the Old testament were saved. Their salvation was on the same basis as ours - Believing God for salvation. As the history of the world progressed their was progressively more revelation concerning the coming of Christ and His saving work on the cross. Old testament men and women were saved by believing with their heart the promises of God concerning the coming of Christ. Adam and Eve were given the “protoevangelion” - the first Gospel message - by God himself. It was very general - but very clear - the seed of the woman would slay the dragon! Other Old Testament men and women were given more details concerning the coming Savior - He would be a descendant of Abraham — His saving work pictured in the Levitical offerings. Their salvation depended solely on believing the promises of God concerning the coming of Jesus.

5. Why did God allow Satan to dwell on the earth with humans?

God created the FACT of Freedom — as free moral agents we perform the ACTS of Freedom. **God made** Evil POSSIBLE — **Men made** Evil FACTUAL. Imperfection came through the abuse of our moral perfection. The same is true of Satan. Some believe that Satan was permitted on the scene to become the agent whereby man would be given choice.

6. Did Eve sin when she felt the temptation, or, was it simply the act of eating?

Being tempted is not sin. Sin is choosing to give in to temptation to gratify ourselves at the expense of disobeying God.

7. When discussing God's creation with my friends, a question I often encounter is, "How can God's perfect creation do anything that is imperfect?"

One of the things that makes men morally perfect is freedom. God created the FACT of Freedom — as free moral agents we perform the ACTS of Freedom.

**QUOTE:** "A free choice leaves the possibility of a wrong choice."

**QUOTE:** J.B. Phillips. "Evil is inherent in the risky gift of free will

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8. Just to clarify, did you really say God doesn't endorse blended marriages?

Incorrect. I was referencing the great pain and difficulties that exist in blended **FAMILIES**. I said that blended families are not what God intended. A "blended family" is not an ethnically mixed marriage - it is a family comprised of a husband and wife from a failed marriage(s) with parents dealing with children from their spouse's failed marriage(s).

9. Are we born as sinners, or only with the potential to sin?

If the latter, at what point can we fall into sin, and what about those who die in infancy?

We are sinners by nature and sinners by choice (Romans 5). There is what is called the "age of accountability." This is when an individual understands the moral consequences of his behavior. I believe that any child who dies before that goes to heaven. See **2 Samuel 12**

10. Did Adam sin when he blamed Eve for eating the apple?

Yes - it was a sinful response to sin. It was also an accusation against God - essentially blaming God.

11. If Adam and Eve had free will which caused them to fall, what's to keep this from happening again in heaven?

People will end up in heaven or hell because God has preserved freedom of choice. Each person will make his own free choice that will determine their eternal destiny. Evil is overcome once those who reject God are separated from all those who trusted Christ - everyone's choice will be made permanent. Those who choose God will be confirmed in it and sin will cease. Those who reject God will be in eternal tormented quarantine and cannot upset the perfect world that has come about. Norman Geisler "When Skeptics Ask" p. 73

12. Where is the tree of good and evil now? Shouldn't there be a sword going through it?

Good question. I don't know. But the sword was not going through the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. **Gen. 3:24** *He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.* We do see the Tree of Life again - **Rev. 2:7; 22:2; 22:14; 22:19**

13. How do we resist temptation?

1.) By the Word of God. Jesus — when tempted by Satan in the wilderness countered every temptation with "It is written...."

2.) By the power of the Holy Spirit — **Eph. 6:10 forward** "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might that you might be able to stand....."

3.) Prayer **2 Cor 10:4**

14. If men are called to responsibility, what are women called to? And how should we respond when we sin, especially in a relationship?

Eve was called to HELP Adam. She was to support Adam in his role as head and leader. That is a HIGH thing. God is often referred to as our HELPER in the Psalms. The Holy Spirit is given the name "Helper" by Jesus. It was her sin that ruined that relationship and every woman since Eve has had a desire to rule and lead. When a woman sins she needs to do the same thing a man does when he sins - confess - repent and forsake the sin.

15. Why would God create man knowing that he would sin, knowing that so many terrible things would happen through sin?

Great question. The question you are asking is essentially: Couldn't God have made a world without evil?

The **Inference** – God could have done a better job designing the world in the first place

The argument

God knows everything

So God knew evil would occur when He created the world

God had other non-evil possibilities. God could have

**not created anything** - this implies that nothing is better than something. What has no morality attached to it can neither be better or worse.

**created a world without free creatures** - creatures without free will are nonmoral. A nonmoral world can not be a morally good world.

created free creatures that would not sin - It is conceivable that free creatures would never sin. Getting that to happen is another matter. If God tampered with those creatures in any way so as to prevent them from sinning they would no longer be free. Even if a sinful action is averted wasn't there already an evil motive. Such a world is conceivable but not actually achievable. Beyond all of this - a world of freedom from evil would be morally inferior to the present world. The highest virtues and greatest pleasures are impossible to achieve if there is not opposition. Example: Courage can only exist in the face of fear or danger.

**created free creatures who would sin but would all be saved in the end** - God will not save men at any cost. He respects their freedom and concurs with their choice. He will not force men to believe or love Him. Forced love is rape. and that is not God.

**Norman Geisler - When Skeptics Ask p.71-73**

16. If we, being "post-Adam" have a proclivity to sin at birth, how do you explain Adam & Eve's sin if they were living in complete and perfect harmony with God?

Great question. They were not born with the proclivity to sin. God created the FACT of Freedom — as free moral agents we perform the ACTS of Freedom.

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17. Does this mean that when we feel the Holy Spirit that it isn't true?

My point is that everything that we FEEL is not necessarily true. Saying that I FELT the Holy Spirit does not mean that it WAS the Holy Spirit. It very well might be the Holy Spirit. For example - Mormons teach you that if you feel a burning in your chest it is proof that the God of Mormonism is true. We must always measure our FEELINGS against the Word of God.

18. So if adulterers, for example are saved the same as other "Christians", why are they not Christians? Is saved not saved? Is a new nomenclature needed?

I'm not sure I'm getting the heart of your question. Adulterers CAN be saved. SO can MURDERERS or LIARS. By faith in Jesus they are SAVED from the penalty of sin and the power of sin. Upon believing with your heart on the Lord Jesus you are not just forgiven — you are also TRANSFORMED by the power of the Holy Spirit and given the power to live for the One who loved you and died for you. SAVED is SAVED!

19. I had a father that was just as you described, had a job, wife, and kids and then left. On the other hand that has made me want to be the best husband/father to my wife and kids. Do you have any advice for me when things get tough or rough besides praying to God?

Never use your failed dad as your excuse for failure. Remember what is NORMAL and NORMATIVE. Jesus is what we should look like. No doubt we can all say we had a bad father figure — Adam! We must look to the perfect example of Jesus as Groom and our Heavenly Father as dad.

20. What was the first sinful response to sin?

In our Credo study the first one listed was

**1.) Some people love to minimize their sin number.** It's not that big of a deal, you totally are overreacting.

In Human History it was blameshifting. "The woman you gave to me...."

21. What is a Theologian?

Someone who studies theology

Theology is the study of God.

From *theos* which = 'god' and *-logia* = study

22. Was satan in chapter 3 a literal snake or figurative like the dragon?

It would appear that he possessed a serpents body.

23. Are demons utterly depraved? If not, why are they unredeemable?

1.) The Bible says that they believe in God - but they tremble. They are more convinced of the existence of God than any human - but they refuse to bow before Him.

2.) Jesus did not shed His blood to “redeem” fallen angels. He can redeem fallen man because He became a man - became our “kinsman redeemer” so that He might purchase us back to God with the price of His own blood.

24. If King David died the night he committed adultery with Bathsheba, would he have gone to heaven?

The bigger question would be — “On what basis can anyone go to heaven?” The Bible is consistent from cover to cover that we can only be justified (made right with God) through faith. “Abraham BELIEVED God and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” You are not kept out of heaven for dying before confessing sin. You are kept out of heaven by not trusting in God to justify you.

25. If God separated Adam and Eve into two fleshes then wouldn't God himself have initiated the first divorce.

God never divided them — Genesis tells us that God brought the woman to the man and the two became one.

26. I hear Christians excuse our mistakes by saying "it's ok you're only human." Is this an unacceptable excuse if to be humans means to be in the likeness of God?

There are those who try to excuse their sin with “well I’m only human” - i.e. What else can you expect me to do since mankind is fallen?

Genesis 5:1 and 9:6 along with James 3:9 say that we still bear the image of God after the fall. Sin does not make us LESS than human. It makes us LOST and FALLEN humans in need of a Savior. In reality — part of what defines us as human is moral responsibility and accountability.

27. Thanks for the WORD Richard! :)