

**From the commentaries ...**

- The point from the beginning to the end is **the institution of the new order of existence for humankind**, which will remain until the end of the age. [Ross, A. P. (1998). Creation and blessing (p. 150). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.]
- They had sought moral autonomy, the power to decide what was right and wrong apart from God and his word. And all humanity has done this ever since. Henri Blocher writes: "The word implies the achievement of autonomy in a certain way. But only in a certain way, for the father of lies only ever speaks the truth by perverting it. In reality, the autonomy is illusory, a mere, pitiful aping of God." **Because God is sovereign, man's supposed autonomy is an illusion. He cannot escape the lordship of God.** "The crazy little god with his absurd pretensions is not God and never shall be. All he can do is die," writes Blocher. [Hughes, R. K. (2004). Genesis: beginning and blessing (pp. 95–96). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.]

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man,  
and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.  
(Romans 5:12 ESV)

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked,  
following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air,  
the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—  
among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh,  
carrying out the desires of the body and the mind,  
and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.  
(Ephesians 2:1–3 ESV)

The Serpent's Promises/Contentions ...	Does God agree or disagree?	God's Words ...
(Genesis 3:4 ESV) But the serpent said to the woman, <b>"You will not surely die."</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GOD COMPLETELY DISAGREES.</b></li> <li>• Adam and Eve died that day. Spiritual death was immediate and the process of physical death had begun. In 3:22-24 God drives them from the garden to keep them from physically surviving in this fallen, twisted state of corruption—i.e. depravity.</li> </ul>	(Genesis 2:17 ESV) But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it <b>you shall surely die.</b>
(Genesis 3:5 ESV) For God knows that when you eat of it <b>your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GOD PARTIALLY AGREES.</b></li> <li>• Adam has now become like God but only in knowing good and evil. The serpent had offered divinity, godlikeness, with the knowledge of good and evil, but what they received was only the experiential knowledge of good and evil. Eve acknowledged, "The serpent deceived me."</li> <li>• Here is the contrast: Before they knew only the goodness of God. Now they know good and evil. They have lost their innocence and are tasting "badness" for the first time. Also now the goodness of man has made its way onto the scene alongside the goodness of God in our world.</li> </ul>	(Genesis 3:13 ESV) Then the Lord God said to the woman, <b>"What is this that you have done?"</b> The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."  (Genesis 3:22 ESV) Then the Lord God said, <b>"Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil.</b> Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever."

• **NOTE TO SELF:** God neither provided his reasons for his command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, nor did he tell them what all the consequences would be if they disobeyed.

• What he was very clear about was that disobedience would bring death. So everything that now follows is the way of death. Their eyes were opened, but, no, they did not become like God.