

# GARDEN SNAKES

## Key Points:

1. Temptation is not sin. Giving in to temptation is sin.
2. Sin = Brokenness
3. We are all Sexually Broken

**\*\*\* We will NOT be showing these images in Youth Group. \*\*\***

## **\*\* ARTISTIC NUDITY ALERT \*\***

**\*\*Venus Demilo\*\*** (woman's breasts)

**\*\*Michelangelo's David\*\*** (full frontal nude male)

## OPENING QUESTIONS

When you see an image of a naked man and woman what do you feel? Attraction, disgust, aroused, curious, shame, guilt, anxiety, triggered?

Why do you have these reactions? (SURVEY)

What happens when I walk in the mall and see a Victoria Secret model. What is the grid I need to walk through as a Christian?

## VERSE

“Now the serpent was shrewder than any of the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, **“Is it really true** that God said, ‘You must not eat from any tree of the orchard?’” **2** The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit from the trees of the orchard; **3** but concerning the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the orchard God said, **‘You must not eat from it, and you must not touch it,** or else you will die.” **4** The serpent said to the woman,

“Surely you will not die, **5** for **God knows** that when you eat from it your eyes will open and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil.”

### Genesis 3:1-24

**Satan’s first step was to plant a seed of doubt in Eve’s mind concerning God’s ways (vv. 1-3). The key phrase is “from any” (v. 1). Satan focused Eve’s attention on God’s one prohibition. He suggested that God did not really want what was best for Adam and Eve but rather was withholding something from them that was essentially good. He hinted that God’s line of protection was actually a line that He drew because He was selfish.**

1. Satan plants the same seeds around sexuality. Seeds of doubt that God’s intentions for sexuality are truly *tov*.
2. Satan loves to point out the restrictions of sexuality instead of painting the restrictions as protections that actually allow us to fully embrace our sexuality and sex and experience the joy and freedom protection brings.
3. Satan is the master of convincing us that God doesn’t want what’s best for us when it comes to sexuality. The lie we are told is that God is withholding freedom of sexuality and expression. God is selfish and doesn’t want us to experience our fullness of sexuality.<sup>1</sup>

**We have to recognize the lies. What truths do we know about God that can help us fight the lies?**

You will notice that not only does Eve fall prey to Satan’s lies but she twists God’s words. Compare Gen. 2:15-17 to Genesis 3:1-5.

Constable gives us two words of wisdom to watch for:

1. Eve was vulnerable to this suggestion because she distorted the word of God. She added to it “or touch it” (v. 3).

**Lie of Satan: The serpent’s claim directly contradicted the main point of chapters 1 and 2, namely, that God would provide what is good for mankind.**

2. The second step in Satan’s temptation was to deny God’s word. In denying it he imputed motives to God that were not consistent with God’s character. God’s true motive was the welfare of man, but the serpent implied it was God’s welfare at man’s expense.

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<sup>1</sup> Constable, T. (n.d.). *Genesis 3*. <https://netbible.org/bible/Genesis+1>.

**Lie of Satan: The serpent claims that Eve will become like God. When the truth is she has been formed and fashioned from the image and likeness of God.**

VERSE

6 When the woman saw that the tree produced fruit that was good for food, was attractive to the eye, and was desirable for making one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some of it to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.”

**Genesis 3:6-7**

**All three avenues of fleshly temptation are present in verse 6.**

1. She saw that the tree was “good for food” (the lust of the flesh: the desire to do something contrary to God’s will, i.e., eat the tasty fruit).
2. It was a “delight to the eyes” (the lust of the eyes: the desire to have something apart from God’s will, i.e., possess the beautiful fruit).
3. It was “desirable to make one wise” (the pride of life: the desire to be something apart from God’s will, i.e., as wise as God, or gods). It was the quest for wisdom that led Eve to disobey God. (Constable)

**In view of Jesus’ statement that a lustful look is as sinful as an overt act of sin (Matt. 5:27-28), did Eve commit the first sin when she desired the forbidden fruit?**

No! Sinful desires are sinful, but temptations are not sins until we respond by giving in to them. Eve did this when she ate the fruit. Until she did that, she was only experiencing temptation.

Point 1:

Temptation is not sin. Giving in to temptation is sin.

I want to marry my girlfriend but I want to see her naked and have sex with her.

Desire is a God given want. Our wants are to bring us back to himself for ultimate fulfillment.

**Famous Youtuber:** validation, acceptance, recognition

Why: You have a desire to be loved and wanted.

Temptation is desiring something outside of God’s plan or timing.

Can I park myself in nature and admire God's creation all day? Can I park myself in front of a Victoria Secret model all day? Why or why not?

## VERSE

To the woman he said,  
"I will greatly increase your labor pains;  
with pain you will give birth to children.  
You will want to control your husband,  
**but he will dominate you."**

**17** But to Adam he said,  
"Because you obeyed your wife  
and ate from the tree about which I commanded you,  
'You must not eat from it,'  
**the ground is cursed** because of you;  
in painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.  
**18** It will produce thorns and thistles for you,  
but you will eat the grain of the field.  
**19** By the sweat of your brow you will eat food  
until you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;  
for you are dust, and **to dust you will return."**

### **Genesis 3:16-19**

#### **Three major consequences of sin from Genesis 3:**

- 1. Sin brings discord. (v.16)**
- 2. Sin defaces the *toiv* in creation. (v. 17)**
- 3. Sin brings death when it promised life. (v. 19)**

#### **Point 2:**

**Sin = Brokenness**

### **Point 3:**

#### **We are all Sexually Broken**

##### **1. We are sexually broken because we live in a fallen world.**

**“Because of the Fall, some people are born prone to sexual addiction, and others will never biologically be able to experience intercourse”<sup>2</sup>**

##### **2. We have all been Sexually Harmed by Sin**

The world’s constant vandalism of sexuality, sexual abuse, rape, porn, sex slavery, etc.

##### **3. We have all sinned sexually**

**With every sexual choice, thought, action, or belief, each of us is either working to restore the holy metaphor of sexuality or participating in Satan’s schemes to vandalize it.**

**-Julie Slattery**

**Our body, mind, and sexuality have been distorted and corrupted because of the fall.**

#### **READ THIS PORTION IN WHOLE FROM JULIE SLATTERY:**

“In Luke 7 we find a party scene. Jesus was the guest of honor. He had been invited to the home of a Pharisee named Simon to have dinner with a group of religious leaders. During their gathering, a woman sneaked in and fell behind Jesus’s feet, weeping and worshipping. Clearly, she didn’t belong. Although Simon didn’t say anything, he looked in judgement on both the woman and Jesus. ‘He said to himself, if this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner’ (verse 39). The great irony is that Simon didn’t know himself—that he was a sinner! This story shows me three spiritual positions I can find myself in:

**1. I am the woman before she crashes the party.** My sin and shame remind me that I’m not worthy to be around holy people and the Messiah Himself. I hide and perhaps pretend, but I lack the courage to run to the One who can set me free from my sexual scars and sin. **I am too broken to be healed.**

**2. I am Simon.** I’ve invited Jesus to my house and hosted Him for dinner. I am in the same room as Jesus, but my heart is far from Him as I relish my relative purity and wholeness. I arrogantly believe that I deserve to be

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<sup>2</sup> Slattery, J. (2018). The Pandemic. In *Rethinking sexuality: God's design and why it matters* (pp. 78–82). essay, Multnomah.

near Him because I can't see myself in light of who He is: The Lord of the universe. **I am too whole to recognize how broken I am.**

**3. I am the woman now at Jesus's feet.** Weeping and worshiping. Praising the Lord that He has the power to forgive my sin and heal my brokenness" (Slattery).

**Where are you in this drama?**

**"Truly, God's power is made perfect in our weakness, (2 Corinthians 12:9). To the extent that we disguise our weakness and justify our sin, we will neither experience nor display God's might and majesty for a watching world."**

**-Julie Slattery**

**In shattered places, with broken people, we are most near the broken heart of Christ, and find our whole selves through the mystery of death and resurrection, through the mystery of brokenness and abundance...**

**The miracle of intimate union, of communion, comes through brokenness—through broken places and broken people and the brokenness of Christ and being broken and given."**

**-Ann Voskamp, *The Broken Way***