

The Heart of Temptation

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 3:6.

B. Stages of temptation.

1. Someone is lured.
2. Desire is conceived giving birth to sin.
3. Sin full grown brings forth death.

II. Temptation is a desire within to move out from the limits God has established for man.

A. Satan created a sense of discontentment within Eve.

B. He then created a misleading presentation of the truth that God had declared.

C. The mind of Eve engages in the actions, but already her emotions have determined to have the forbidden fruit.

1. Her mind can only consider the facts as they appear to her.
2. She can no longer think rationally—she is rationalizing.
3. The mind has a terrible ability to twist the facts to meet the desire.

D. The temptation was desirable aesthetically and for the ego.

E. The appeal of the gospel is always to the mind.

1. Any evangelism that does not start with the mind is distorted.
2. It results in abortions instead of births.

F. Everything that is pleasurable is not wrong—it is only when those desires come out of order that it is wrong.

G. The last hope was in Adam after Eve's temptation, but he fell with ease.

III. The Fall has rendered man victim to emotional urges and twisting.

A. The new birth in Jesus Christ is the only solution.

B. We can only know what is right when judged through Jesus Christ.

Application questions:

1. What are the stages of temptation? How did these unfold for Eve?

2. How have you experienced temptation similarly? What did you learn from the experience?

3. How would you advise someone dealing with temptation? Explain.
