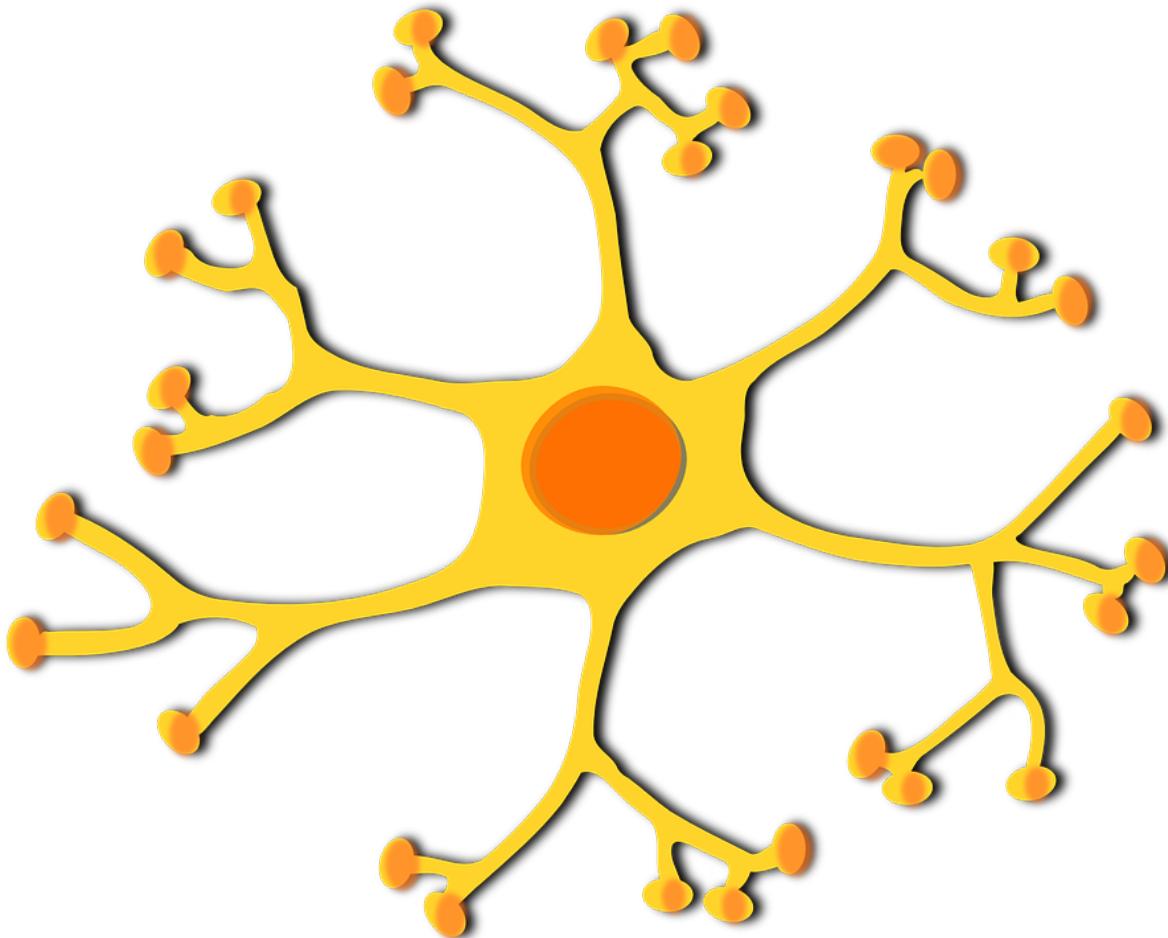


The Anatomy of Sin

14-18 minutes



After creation the beauty and the poetry of a cosmology in sync with the desires and plans of the creator is disrupted by the misguided actions of Eve and the willful disobedience of Adam. A cursory read presents a face value cause-and-effect prose yet a nuanced exploration of the details of the events illuminates crucial insights that reveal why we keep falling for evil when we know its cancerous nature and consequences. The post presents 6 trenchant lessons from the account of the fall of humanity captured in Genesis chapter 3.

[Genesis 3: 3-8](#)

3 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But

of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. 7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. 8 And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

6 Lessons from the fall of Adam and Eve

1. Satan has nothing of his own to offer

The devil did not rock up with his own combo of fruits. He would have made a better argument if he had came with his own fruits that he would have created himself. However, the hideous foe deceived Eve to believe that He had a better offer off God's own provisions. Fact: The devil has no power to create, his destructive power lies in manipulating that which God has created. There is no form or derivative of sin that does not involve a perversion of the good that God has created. All things come from God and the devil's plan is to get us to self-destruct merely by crossing the line either through premature access, misapplication, misuse, or abuse of the good things God has created. It is wise to obey the creator that to allow a mere creature to serenade our senses into thinking that He has something better to offer off the gifts God has already set for the ultimate pleasure and benefit of His creatures.

2. The Devil works with half truths which are whole lies

The three half truths and whole lies:

- a) "You will not surely die ([Gen 3:4](#))". The pair did not die at that self same point in time. The claim that they would not surely die was a half truth in that perverted sense but it was in essence a whole lie in the sense that ultimately they died.
- b) "Your eyes will be opened" ([Gen 3:5](#)). The pair's eyes were opened as they, for the first time, began to see their own nakedness but as it would surely turn out, this was a half truth. In essence, from the point of the fall, human physiological vision deteriorated and this marked the genesis of both literal and spiritual blindness.
- c) "You will be like gods" ([Gen 5:5](#)). This was a half truth in that for the first time Adam and Eve knew both good and evil, a reality which until the point of sin had been a preserve of an all-knowing God. Notwithstanding, this was a whole lie considering that as the two were created in the image of God, Adam and Eve were already like God, also through disobedience; Adam and Eve, and as all humanity would be, became less like God, in fact more unlike God.

3. The Devil is the Project Manager of All Evil

Every time we want to do something out of sync with God's standards we ought to understand that the devil is the arch instigator of rebellion and disobedience. Yes we have our own personal sovereignty to make decisions to determine our courses of actions as free moral beings. We even do have 100% capacity to disobey even if the devil were absent otherwise we would not be free moral beings. A free moral being not only has liberty to disobey but has the capacity to do so genuinely and thoroughly. Not notwithstanding the foregoing, in the context of the great controversy we find ourselves in, every human being, except for Adam and Eve that came from the hand of God; is birthed in iniquity and is thus born with a predisposition to sin. Additionally, all Adam's posterity comes with an inherently evil nature the genesis of which was the Devil's initiative. So while our free will is intact, we are not without influence from both God and Satan to exercise our free will in either of the two diametrically opposed trajectories.

The essence of the foregoing is that sin is the proprietary enterprise of Satan. While every free moral being has the capacity to disobey on their own terms, Satan owns and holds valid claims to the intellectual property and the patent of sin. This is why in the object lesson of the sanctuary all confessed sins are not merely excused, but essentially allotted to the Devil.

To ultimately die for your own sins culminates from effectively and successfully contesting Satan's patent of sin and upholding your brand of wickedness as the groundbreaking brain child of the stellar ingenuity of your wretchedness. This is a contestation you can easily and ostensibly win because the devil will still win through not disagreeing with you. He does not care whether he succeeds at destroying the soul himself or the soul simply self-destructs. All he cares about is that the soul is destroyed.

I submit then that in this milieu, polarized by contestations of good and evil at cosmic levels; it is not enough to be conscious of what you are and what you want, it is imperative to interrogate your very want premise. In other words, why do you want what you want? What engenders your desires? Where from is your desiring conceived?

In the state of demon possession, the demoniac seemed to have wanted to dwell in the grave yard, to walk around naked, he had a fleeting swoop of seemingly unfettered freedom as he broke the chains that bound him. It is necessitous to note that the demoniac was demon possessed as opposed to him possessing demons. He did not possess, he was possessed. Only when Jesus set him free did it dawn that all along he had been doing what was the bidding of another force. He had not been living a life that he desired for himself but that which the devil desired on his behalf. If you consider this closely, the angle illuminates the sorry and dreary state of every willful sinner who conceives slavery to sin as some form of freedom, albeit imaginary.

"Every soul that refuses to give himself to God is under the control of another power. He is not his own. He may talk of freedom, but he is in the most abject slavery. He is not allowed to see the beauty of truth, for his mind is under the control of Satan. While he flatters himself that he

is following the dictates of his own judgment, he obeys the will of the prince of darkness. Christ came to break the shackles of sin-slavery from the soul. „If the Son therefore shall make ye free, ye shall be free indeed.“ „The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus“ sets us „free from the law of sin and death“¹⁰ The Desire of Ages, 466.3

Whether we acknowledge it or not, the devil is the project manager of all evil enterprise and he has reward for all who serve him: The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. But Jesus has come come that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly. ([John 10:10](#))

4. The biggest fraud in the Cosmos

a) The devil told Eve that they would be like gods through the knowledge of good and evil. He did not disclose to them that unlike God who knows both good and evil as an Omniscient God, for humanity to know sin is to be ruined, fatally, by sin. God can survive the knowledge sin but humanity can not. The devil did not disclose this part of the dreary offer.

Lesson. The devil lures and seeks to destroy by offering elevation without balance, altitude without aptitude, power without character, tenacity without capacity.

5. The nucleus of sin

Eve knew it was wrong to partake of the forbidden fruit but she did not indeed believe it the act would be wrong. She lived at the level of compliance and not obedience.

Most of us know the wrongs that are wrong, but we hardly believe that the wrongs are surely wrong. The only reason we can go on and do that which we clearly know is wrong is that we know at an informational level it is wrong but we have not internalized to the level of commitment the fact that it is wrong. Like Eve, the biggest mistake we make, which keeps us vulnerable to fall is that we live at a level of compliance and not obedience. If sin is a state, then the foregoing element is the capital, if sin is a snake this is the head, if sin is a living cell, this is the nucleus. The difference between compliance and obedience is that the former (compliance) obtains for the technical satisfaction of set rules while the later (obedience) is profound, it yields an unbreakable allegiance even in the absence of rules. Hence Joseph's remarkable and defining consternation in [Genesis 39:9](#). Joseph exclaimed: "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?".

Joseph resisted the temptation without quoting verses or citing technicality statutes that criminalize susceptibility to the offer at hand. His operative for resisting sin was not technical but relational. He did not only know that adultery was wrong, he strongly believed it was wrong. He would rather die than do it. It disgusted him, it was unthinkable to him. He would not do it on the basis of the injury it would cause to his relationship with God. His disdain and disgust for sin had nothing to do with making it to heaven and being a good example in society. It was intrinsically deeper than the collective bearing of all those other valid extraneous reasons for not succumbing to the temptation.

"In the work of redemption there is no compulsion. No external force is employed. Under the influence of the Spirit of God, man is left free to choose whom he will serve. In the change that takes place when the soul surrenders to Christ, there is the highest sense of freedom. The expulsion of sin is the act of the soul itself" The Desire of Ages, 466.

6. God does not want us to do right. He wants us to want to do right.

It is imperative to note that God has no struggle whatsoever with getting whatever He desires from His creatures. He has ordered the suns, moons and stars in their magnificent and vast tracks and all His created objects obey His will to the dot. Notwithstanding, God created human beings for fellowship with Himself and for this particular reason human beings are endowed with genuine free will even at the risk of pain on the part of the creator Himself. This means that humans not only have the latitude to disobey but are verily capacitated to do so if so they please. Therefore, the program of salvation does not primarily seek to get us to do right. Firstly, God would have easily programmed humanity to simply adhere to the His explicit and implicit will without any ounce of resistance from the creatures. Secondly, God has no pleasure in a relationship of technical and impersonal compliance with any of His intelligent beings. In Isaiah 1:18, He invites: "Come now and let us reason together." God is not seeking any robotic allegiance from His creatures. He is an infinitely intelligent and omnipotent being and just like none of us would enjoy a robotic relationship no matter how adherent and compliant the other party would be, God thus seeks deeper relations with His creatures. Thus, God does not merely want us to do right, He wants us to want to do right. In fact any robotic relationship is either a relationship hardly, or hardly a relationship.

God has no problem with a free human being who takes a decision to sin. Free moral beings are meant to do what they want. However God has a problem with a well and adequately informed human being who has been equipped to choose right and chooses a path of disobedience. It is this disjunction and disconnect that is problematic.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ([John 3:18](#))

The focus of salvation is therefore the rehabilitation of the will faculty and not merely whipping into the strait and narrow way the mechanics of our erroneous deeds and acts. Free moral agents are designed to make their own decisions and to do as they please else they are not free moral beings. God as an engineer is happy to see His beings do as they please. However, God as a holy engineer who created human beings as free moral beings molded in His image, seeks to have the free moral beings not only do as they please, but He longs and aims to have His free moral beings please as He pleases. In other words, God is happy to see us live as we will, as long as our will is aligned with His perfect will. This is not for any other reason except that it is only within the will of God that the joy and happiness of humanity blossoms and is sustained and secured. Therefore, God as a creator and as an engineer is focused on fine-tuning the will premise of humanity such that out of the reclaimed and wholesome heart bursts forth sound decision making that is in harmony with the will of God and which inevitably yields right doing. This is the win-win ideal that God is aiming at, when for us human beings pleasing God equals

pleasing ourselves absolutely, and does not subvert nor undercut our God-granted moral freedoms.

Lastly: take note: The willful commission of sin is the genesis of your end, the construction of your destruction. To sin is to self destruct. The wages of sin is death ([Romans 6:23](#)), it is not that God will kill you.

Sin is more powerful than death. Death can't separate us from God ([Romans 8:38](#)). However, Sin can, and eternally so if we do not repent and turn wholly to God.

May we be challenged to graduate from a non committal, vulnerable, weak and vacillating christian experience that is compliant at best and yet revolting in essence, and rather gravitate to a quality of Christianity that is authentic, heartfelt and deeply relational.

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How to Cite this article

In Text

(Nyoni, 2020)

In Bibliography

Nyoni, G., 2020. The Anatomy of Sin. [online] Expound.org.za. Available at: <<https://expound.org.za/the-anatomy-of-sin/>> [Accessed 18 May 2020].

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