

## **The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil**

Genesis 2:16-17

**Context:** For the very first time since the beginning of Genesis 1:1, Moses now introduces a conflict for man within God's creation - a prohibition to not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

### **Eating from the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil has caused you to...**

#### **A. \_\_\_\_\_ the word of God as the source of ultimate truth.**

1. The fundamental issue at work in this passage is this: Would man live by divine revelation or human reason? To eat the forbidden fruit meant man would seek right and wrong independently of God. (Tony Evans)
2. This is still the source of every sinful action today - we would rather sin than obey God's truth.

#### **B. \_\_\_\_\_ the authority of God with your own.**

1. The tree of knowledge symbolized the authority of God; to eat of that tree meant to disobey God and incur the penalty of death. (Warren Wiersbe)
2. This forbidden tree represents moral autonomy. By eating from this tree and disobeying God, humanity will decide for itself what is good and evil. (Stephen Dempster)

#### **C. \_\_\_\_\_ on your own feelings for morality.**

1. Whereas God established himself as the the source and arbiter of all truth by means of his revealed word—fallen mankind now makes its own mind (and often feelings) the ultimate source of truth. (Richard Phillips)
2. By eating from this forbidden tree, Adam would become the forerunner of every man or woman today who exclaims, "It is true because I feel it is true!"

### **To recover from the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil...**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ under God's Guidance and provision
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ yourself within God's designed boundaries
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ your purpose completely in Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:10)