

These questions are for the March 8, 2026, message, “Temptation and Falling.” Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 3:1-7) out loud.

### Passage Outline

The progression of sin in the human heart:

1. Ridicule (1).
  - a. The tactics of the serpent to incite rebellion in each us:
    - i. Isolate. The serpent approaches Eve, specifically.
    - ii. Ridicule. Not a logical argument, but a sarcastic mocking of those who believe:
      1. God is all-powerful.
      2. God is always good.
  - b. This tactic is aimed at the heart: our internal identity as a whole person.
2. Replacement (2-5).
  - a. The serpent seeks to erode and decay our loyalty to God’s Word (and God).
    - i. The serpent misquotes, mocks and casts dispersions on God and His goodness.
    - ii. There is a generalization of God’s Word.
    - iii. There is a minimization of God’s Word.
  - b. When we do not believe that God is good, we will eventually marginalize His Word.
3. Revolt (6-7).
  - a. Adam and Eve reject God and His good authority, seeking to rule their own lives.
  - b. Adam is our “federal head.” Which means he represents humankind (Rom 5:12).
  - c. Sin has passed to all humankind. We call this “total depravity.”
    - i. This does not mean we are as “bad as we could be.”
    - ii. It does mean that we are prisoners to sin in what we think, want and do.
  - d. Only God’s grace and love in Jesus Christ’s obedience can bring us freedom.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Give examples of how ridicule, sarcasm and eyerolling are used today as the first objection to Christians who believe that God is ultimate and God is good. Where does it cost us relational warmth, invitations, inclusion, respect and job offers? How does it cost our brothers and sisters around the world far more?
2. Based on #1, above: How can parents and families prepare their own children to stand strong and not be afraid in the face of ridicule about our Christian faith?
3. Based on #2, above: In what ways are you tempted to generalize or minimize God’s Word? What is at stake when we do this? How can we guard against this?
4. Based on #3, above: We have all actually committed acts of rebellion against God’s righteous and good rule in our lives. We have made ourselves His enemy. The wages of sin is death (Gen 2:16). Read Romans 5:12 and 17 out loud. Discuss the power and goodness of God in defeating death and sin forever in the obedience of Christ Jesus.