

The False Center

by: Pastor Rock Dillaman

Scripture: Genesis 3:4-5 – The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

1. God’s command wasn’t an unnecessary temptation to evil. It was a necessary invitation to blessing!
2. God’s prohibition wasn’t meant to produce a destructive fall. It was meant to produce a defining faith.
3. A meaningful life requires an awareness of what is most valuable and enduring in the universe.
4. God’s love and His ways are perfect; so loving obedience to Him is always in our best interest!
5. The universe is Christ-centered (Colossians 1), and in a Christ-centered universe self-centeredness is a false center that distracts us from reality.
6. The oldest temptation is the impulse to pride - the illusion we know better than our Creator.
7. The delusions of pride often endure despite mountains of evidence to the contrary!
8. Evil is always better in imagination than in reality, while holiness is always better in reality than in imagination!
9. Where human pride sees restrictions God-birthed humility sees protections.
10. Refusing God’s commands doesn’t enable us to soar; it leaves us grounded!
11. In a universe where Christ is the center pride is the ultimate disorienting sin.
12. Pride is a blindness we choose. It renders us incapable of seeing reality.
13. Our feelings are not God. God is God. And our feelings don’t define truth. God’s Word defines truth.
14. The sin that birthed man’s rebellion will be at the forefront of the rebellion’s final days.

Growth Group Questions

Sermon Title: The False Center



WARM-UPS

1. What generally comes to mind when you think of the word “pride?”
2. If you were in Adam and Eve’s place do you think you would have chosen differently? Why or why not?

DISCUSSION

1. Do you generally find it difficult to obey God? Why or why not? What are His most challenging commands to obey and why?
2. Do you find obedience to God’s commands liberating or confining and why? Are there any commands you refuse to obey? If so, what are they and why?
3. What are the things in your life that you value the most and why? Does the way you actually live correctly reflect those values? If not, what’s out of alignment?
4. Share about a time when the devil invited you to something “inferior” that posed as something “superior.” Explain.
5. What are the areas of your life that tempt you the most in the area of pride?
6. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or inspiring in the sermon today and why?

IN THE WORD

Read some of the passages below and discuss any insights into today’s message.

- Luke 11:28
- Luke 14:11
- John 17:17
- Romans 12:2

PRACTICE

- Spend some time alone with God asking Him where pride may be manifesting itself in your life that you’re not aware of. Ask Him to increase your level of self-awareness and then take time to listen. If you discover pride, are you willing to acknowledge it and repent? (Psalm 51:17)
- Is there some area of your life you’re choosing sin over obedience? Are you willing to confess it to God and repent, and also share it with a trusted friend as a way of breaking its hold on you? (James 5:16; 1 John 1:7-9)