

## Principle Faith: Genesis Two/Three

### Part 5

*The audio and print files for this class can be found online at <http://www.etspm.org/audio/principlefaith>*

**Our Purpose:** ... to honor and glorify God through heart, soul, strength and mind ... in a way that demonstrates love for others and self at the same time. ... to focus on ... principles that help us understand the biblical text, our relationship to God and others

**Our Goal:** To examine at least the first eleven chapters of Genesis during the quarter, looking for, explaining, and applying the principles we find.

**What is a principle?** - a foundational truth or premise upon which we build beliefs, practices and explanations. ... a study of key ... principles in light of how they generate and strengthen faith, reflect God's nature and glory and build a case for all things spiritual. Biblical principles: reflect the existence/nature of God; indicate God's connection with the overall biblical theme; demonstrate divine providence; illustrate how tightly organized the "scheme" of redemption really is

**Genesis In Context:** ... how Israel fit into God's divine plan for the redemption of all mankind

#### 2:17ff, 3:1ff: God's authority - general principles

1. Is universal:
  - a. Involves a greater and a lesser
  - b. Involves authority on the part of the greater: (1) due to inherent authority (the right to rule); or (2) due to delegated authority, a hierarchy of authority, which entails: (a) an ultimate standard of authority, (b) authorized delegate of authority, (c) those subject to authority
  - c. Involves submission on the part of the lesser
2. Involves a standard:
  - a. establishment of covenants, contracts, commands, laws, legislation, statutes, etc.;
  - b. determined by the greater;
  - c. submitted to by the lesser
3. Involves recognition of authority:
  - a. rightness (oughtness) of those in authority to rule;
  - b. acceptance by those in subjection
4. Involves submission on the part of the lesser:
  - a. cannot challenge authority of greater;
  - b. cannot create own authority
5. Involves transmission of authority:
  - a. codification of standards;
  - b. recognition of standards;
  - c. applicability of standards;
  - d. submission to standards
6. Involves purpose:
  - a. meets universal need - (a) greater provides for needs, (b) lesser receives benefits;
  - b. enhances order - (a) authority of greater provides for stability, (b) submission by lesser includes predictability;
  - c. prevents chaos - (a) authority of greater provides deterrent to chaos, (b) authority of greater provides punishment to disobedient;

d. provides benefits - (a) authority of greater provides benefits, (b) submission by lesser receives benefits, (c) failure to submit by lesser negates benefits, (d) failure to submit by lesser demands consequences

### **2:17ff, 3:1ff: God's authority - specific principles**

1. always revealed in advance (cf. Amos 3:7; Genesis 2:17)
2. always manifest for the benefit of others (cf. - God's shared glory, Jn 13:31; Rom 8:17, 30)
3. always understandable (Ps 78:1 - "give ear to the words of my mouth"; Is 55:1ff incline, hear, live)
4. always done for the benefit of all (cf. Moses/Aaron, Israel; Pharaoh, Egypt; all nations - Acts 26:26)
5. always a test of our faith (Heb 11:1ff; cf. James 1:1ff)
6. always a demonstration of God's faithfulness (cf. 2 Tim 2:13)

### **2:17ff; 3:1ff: God's will**

1. God will • God's word • God's work [the mind, revelation and the actions of God]
  - a. God's character/nature is always 100% in sync with itself
  - b. 2 Tim 2:13 - God cannot deny himself; he is always true to his nature
  - c. Example: God can not lie (Num 23:19; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18)
  - d. What God thinks (God's will) is always consistent with what God says (his word) and does (his work)
  - e. What God says (his word) is always consistent with what God does (his work)
2. The "three wills" of God
  - a. God's initial will - Genesis 2:17 (do not eat - if you do, you will die; 1 Jn 2:1ff - do not sin)
  - b. God's circumstantial will - Genesis 3:14ff (consequences of sin - David - 1 Sam ; Col 2:8)
  - c. Gods' ultimate will - (our relationship with Christ - Eph 1:3; 2 Cor 11:2, Col 1:28; faithfulness - 1 Tim 4:10; Rev 17:14)

### **3:1ff: The nature of sin**

1. violation of the law of God - usually the only "violation" we know - we fell short (omission) or we went too far (commission) - we transgressed/were lawless
2. an attitude of sin - Esau (Genesis 25:34); Saul (1 Sam 15:9, 23); David (2 Sam 11:9); Israel (Mal 1:6)
3. a failure to appreciate the blessings that God has promised/provided for us - we say, in effect, what you have promised/provided for us is not good enough (cf. Deut 4:40 - obey = blessings; ~obey ≠ blessings)
4. a failure to fully manifest God in our lives for his glory, the benefit of others & the salvation of our soul
5. sin is robbing God of his pleasure - robbing others of his glory - robbing self of God's blessings
6. violation of the will/purpose of God - God created us to be reflections of his image for the world to see (Gen 1:25ff; Mt 5:13ff - salt, light, city => glorify the Father; 1 Th 2:12; living epistles - 2 Cor 3:1ff)
7. violation of the love of God (Jn 14:15, 23-24; 1 Jn 2:15ff - love of world = lust of eyes, flesh & pride)
8. violation of the word of God (Deut 4:40)
9. violation of the work of God - when we sin, we fail to allow God's will, word and work to function in our lives - (Saul - 1 Sm 13:13, Jeroboam - 1 Kings 11:30ff, esp. 38)

**Next time:** the devil's lie/the role of deceit; creating false worlds (Eve/Adam/Romans 1; Col 2); things that Adam and Eve did not say

**Assignment:** Read through and continue to study Genesis 3-4 for additional principles.