

# Who Told You That You Were Naked?



Woodcut Adam and Eve by Lucas Cranach the Elder - 1509

**An exploration of “The Fall of Man”  
Robert Pedersen**

[www.bestillknowgod.com](http://www.bestillknowgod.com)

## Notice

This document is provided solely for your exploration, consideration and enjoyment.

As such it is not intended to be a definitive treatise on any of the topics discussed herein.

It is likely that you will find some of the ideas expressed herein to be an affront to some of the beliefs you hold most dear.

If this happens you have the opportunity to choose your reaction and response to these ideas.

I would recommend that you sit with them and sense within your spirit whether these things are so.

Then, if they seem right for you accept them and if not reject them.

Either way you will have invested time in consideration of some of the most important issues we humans struggle with – and no effort in that regard is wasted.

Please share this with anyone and everyone you think may enjoy it. You may publish it on your own blog or website. As you share it please leave it as it is and include links back to:

[www.bestillknowgod.com](http://www.bestillknowgod.com)

I'll leave you now to begin.

Blessings,

Robert Pedersen

[www.bestillknowgod.com](http://www.bestillknowgod.com)

## Who Told You That You Were Naked?

By Robert Pedersen

It could be argued that The Bible is the most important spiritual book ever compiled. It is the basis for many of the religious doctrines on earth today.

Contained within its pages is wisdom and edification for any and every reader. It has been called a "living" book with good reason. Perhaps no other book offers support to every reader in his unique journey as does The Holy Bible.

Very near the beginning of this great book is a story about the first man and woman - Adam and Eve and what is oft referred to as "The fall of man".

Within that story is a question that God asked Adam and Eve: "Who told you that you were naked?"

Scripture doesn't indicate that Adam and Eve answered the question. Perhaps it was left that way for us to uncover the answer for ourselves.

That is exactly what we're going to do here.

The answer to this question will allow us to discover the source of all the problems and suffering of the human condition.

That's a bold claim and we have a some work to do so let's get started!

Here is the story as recorded in the New International Version of The Bible.

Genesis 3:1-11

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,

3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.

5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

## The Fall

There's a very good reason that The Bible preserves this incident for us. This story provides the details of the fall of humanity. So we know why we find ourselves in the state we're in.

More importantly, this story demonstrates the natural tendency of the human mind to fall into judgment and condemnation and the result of that course.

Many stories have been told of Adam and Eve's failings.

Humanity for the most part has accepted the failings of the first parents as their own. The cycle continues as we live out our days experiencing separation from God, feeling our own inadequacy, sin, failure, etc in spite of God's tremendous efforts to show us the way of escape.

We propagate this cycle by teaching our children the same judgments we have accepted and so it goes.

True understanding of this story provides the answers needed for rising again to the original created state that God intends for his children – perfection. That's what we're going to uncover here.

### **The Usual Conclusion**

The usual conclusion from reading this story is that Man is fallen and requires some emergency measure to be reconciled to God. As we read on throughout The Bible we find numerous instances of God providing "emergency measures" to remedy man's fallen state.

Throughout the Old Testament sacrifices of various kinds were made to appease God and win His favor. They were never enough to really satisfy the terrible inadequacy of the human condition.

Then, in the New Testament along comes another sacrifice. The voluntary sacrifice of the only Son of God - a perfect life offered up to God was the ultimate sacrifice - after which no more sacrifices would be necessary. We find however that it wasn't enough either.

Somehow humanity still feels so bad and wrong that more sacrifices are made each and every day in the hope that God will be appeased, we will gain His approval, and our relationship with Him will be restored to what it once was.

As you've likely notice it still isn't working. Here's where a closer look at the fall of man can help.

Let's go back to the beginning and examine the story of Adam and Eve a little closer and see if we can find something to help us in our present situation of being separated from God by our sin.

## The Command

According to the story recorded in Genesis 2, God told Adam "You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die".

Adam and Eve apparently tested the truth of God's command fairly quickly – they ate the fruit and what happened?

They didn't die.

Or did they?

They didn't experience the separation of their spirits from their bodies. So they didn't die in that sense.

What they did experience was the separation of their spirit from God which is generally thought of as spiritual death and when the condition exists forever - eternal death.

The indicator to our first parents that there was a problem was an awareness of being naked.

In that state they didn't feel comfortable communicating with God so they hid themselves.

God didn't wish them to remain afraid of His presence and so He made them coverings of skins to wear.



## The Tree

Let's spend a few moments examining the tree next.

Genesis 2:16-17

And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." (NIV)

There was only one tree in the Garden of Eden that God wanted Adam to avoid. That tree was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Some like to concern themselves with whether or not the tree of knowledge of good and evil was an actual tree. I don't pretend to know and it does not matter – nor does it change the story or its meaning either way. Think of the tree as you like.

Now, to have knowledge of good and evil from a purely human standpoint seems like a good thing, right? We humans are enthralled, even addicted to the idea of knowing right and wrong – and being right. If we're going to be right then we must know right from wrong.

We are taught as children what is good and what is evil. It is an essential part of our learning and growth.

When we have children of our own we pass that learning on to them. Knowing good and evil is critical in all aspects of our society.

Governments are concerned with knowing good and evil. Legal battles are fought in courtrooms all around the globe as we search out and define good and evil. We have systems - justice, health, business, insurance, religious, educational, economic, etc. designed and established to provide guidelines around the knowledge of good and evil.

The point is that knowing good and evil is very important to human beings. One could even argue that knowing good and evil is essential to our existence.

## The Fruit

Now let's examine the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 3:6

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

(NIV)

Here we have the characteristics of the fruit that grows on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

It's good for food, pleasing to the eye, and desirable for gaining wisdom.

The serpent told Eve:

Genesis 3:4-5

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

(NIV)

If there were a fruit you could eat that would cause you to become like God, knowing good and evil wouldn't you eat it?

Of course you would! I would too! And we do!

We cannot help ourselves. We're addicted to the idea of becoming like God - knowing good and evil.

## The Result

Now let's examine the result of eating that fruit.

Genesis 3:7

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

(NIV)



This verse gives us the result of eating the fruit - They realized they were naked.

Realizations of this sort require immediate attention. There's no way around it. Something must be done NOW!

If you've ever had a dream where you couldn't find your clothes or perhaps you were in a crowd and suddenly realized you were naked, you have a sense of the urgency our first parents must have felt.

The thing is, they were naked before they ate the fruit and naked after they ate the fruit so what happened?

Did they not know they were naked before eating the fruit? Of course they were familiar with their condition – they may not have called it nakedness but they were naked before eating the fruit and comfortable in their nakedness.

Genesis 2:25

The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.  
(NIV)

Now after eating the fruit they're still naked, but ashamed of their nakedness – and not just ashamed, but wrong, and unworthy to stand in God's presence.

## The Shift

The question is what actually happened? Sure, they realized they were naked, but why was that a bad thing? They weren't ashamed before, why now? Their physical state was that they were naked – perfectly naked – just the way God made them. They were perfectly naked before and after the fruit was eaten. What exactly was this realization that caused them to believe their perfect nakedness was a bad thing?

It was nothing more than a shift in perception.

How could this occur from eating a piece of fruit?

Simple – remember the fruit was a product of the tree of knowledge of good and evil – something to be desired to make one wise – something that would make one like God, knowing good and evil.

Here's how it works: When you gain the knowledge of what is right or wrong, good or bad, innocence is lost and you're compelled to make judgments. That knowledge isn't concrete – it's subjective – it always varies according to who is eating the fruit.

That knowledge demands a choice to be made and that choice reflects your judgment.

Their perception of their own perfect state of God created nakedness shifted from acceptance to judgment.

I like to explain it like this: partaking of the knowledge of good and evil always creates a shift from acceptance to judgment. Before the knowledge of good and evil we're in a state of acceptance of what is. There is no other choice because one thing is no worse or better than another. After the knowledge of good and evil we go into judgment – using our new found knowledge to decide what is good, bad, right and wrong.

We have seen why that is. Now what happens?

### **After The Shift**

So once that shift is made, what happens?

There are at least 4 things that occur.

1. The eater of the fruit experiences fear for the first time
2. The eater of the fruit discovers they have something wrong with them.

## Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

