

Genesis 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of **the tree of the knowledge of good and evil** you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 3:4-7 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Genesis 3:22-23 NKJV Then the Lord God said, "**Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil.** And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— ²³therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

1. From Cursory to Comprehensive Knowledge

Before the fall, Adam (in his innocence and God's warning) only had an acquaintance with the knowledge of good and evil. But after his fall into sin, he now had—through personal contact—a more comprehensive knowledge of how good God actually was and how evil the devil was. Adam's knowledge of good and evil was LIKE/AS God.

2. Sarcasm or irony (Augustine, Luther, Calvin)

Irony - the use of words to express something other than and especially the opposite of the literal meaning

Sarcasm - a sharp and often satirical or ironic utterance designed to cut or give pain

In Adam's desire to "become like God," he actually "became like the devil." God, "By your sin you have 'become like God'" = 'become like the devil'

After the comfort of the hope of life in the divine promise, these words are **a harsh reminder of past sin to make Adam fear future sin and beware of it.** They are spoken after the Gospel (v.15), and the profession of faith (v.20) and the clothing(v.21).

3. Seriously Spoken

a. **Concerning the Present** – in and by Christ he has come to know the good God was providing and the evil nature of sin, death, and the devil which the Promised Seed would overcome.

b. **Concerning the Past** – Adam WAS like/as God knowing good and evil before the Fall. He was created righteous and he had been warned about evil. In the fall, Adam had lost the image of God, AND NOW Adam has come to know evil.