



KNOWN

Knowing Him & Being Known

 **MEN'S
CONFERENCE
2025**

Fully Known and Loved by God

Genesis 3:1-21



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**“To be known and not loved
is our greatest fear.”**

—Tim Keller

Every time we hide **who we are** or **what we've done**,
we reveal and deepen our belief that “If I were truly
known, there's no way I could be loved.”

What gives us the courage to step into the light? We must know . . .

- 1. The paradox of being known (2:25-3:6)**
- 2. The problem(s) with our solution (3:7-10)**
- 3. The solution to our problem (3:11-21)**



Adam and his wife [Eve] were both **naked**, and they felt **no shame**.

3 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’?” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 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.’”

Genesis 2:25-3:15, 21



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

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.

Genesis 2:25-3:15, 21



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.

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. But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

Genesis 2:25-3:15, 21



He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I **was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.**”

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

Genesis 2:25-3:15, 21



The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Genesis 2:25-3:15, 21



So the Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,

‘Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Genesis 2:25-3:15, 21



The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and **[he] clothed them.**

Genesis 2:25-3:15, 21

1. The paradox of being known (2:25-3:6)

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- Being known is simultaneously our deepest **longing** and our deepest **fear**.
- If we don't respond to this paradox biblically, we will live frustrated: Never **hidden** enough to subside our **fear** of being known, never **seen** enough to satisfy our **longing** to be known.

1. The paradox of being known (2:25-3:6)

“Adam and his wife were both **naked**, and they felt **no shame**.”
(Genesis 2:25)

→ We were **made to be fully known**.

→ We were created in the image of the God who **desires to be known!**

1. The paradox of being known (2:25-3:6)

Adam said, “I was **afraid** because I was **naked**, so, I **hid**.” (Genesis 3:10)

→ The moment sin entered the world, being known morphed from a **comfort** to a **threat**.

→ We went from naked and **unashamed** to naked and **ashamed**.



Guilt says, “*I did* something wrong.” Shame says, “*I am* something wrong.”

—Brené Brown

1. The paradox of being known (2:25-3:6)

→ Adam doesn't say, "I was afraid because *I ate the fruit*" (**guilt-based**), but "I was afraid because *I was naked*" (**shame-based**).

→ Shame is the feeling of being **inadequate, not good enough, unlovable**.

→ We spend our entire lives trying to get rid of our shame.

2. The problem(s) with our solution (3:7-10)

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Two kinds of hiding/covering up:

A. Hiding in the trees. (v. 8)

B. Dressing in fig leaves. (v. 7)

→ We're all pursuing the dangling carrot of adequacy, of being "good enough."

2. The problem(s) with our solution (3:7-10)

A. Hiding in the trees. (v. 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.”
(3:8)

2. The problem(s) with our solution (3:7-10)

A. Hiding in the trees. (v. 8)

→ We hide in the trees whenever we try to **not be seen**:
isolating, covering up, finger-pointing/self-justifying, avoiding
situations where our inadequacies might be revealed.

→ We think hiding will make us loveable, when it's actually
the very thing keeping us from love.



**“People cannot love the person
you hide from them.”**

**—Joe Scavotto, world-renowned
scholar™**



What happens when you're only 99% known is that you are unable to receive love—because any time someone tells you, “I love you,” you say, “Well, if they knew this one percent, they'd never be able to say that to me” . . . So, you keep hiding, because for people to find out this part of you is death.

—Matt Chandler

2. The problem(s) with our solution (3:7-10)

A. Hiding in the trees. (v. 8)

Problems:

- Hiding prevents us from embracing love.
- Hiding exacerbates shame.

2. The problem(s) with our solution (3:7-10)

B. Dressing in fig leaves. (v. 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.**” (3:7)

2. The problem(s) with our solution (3:7-10)

B. Dressing in fig leaves. (v. 7)

If hiding in the trees is trying **not to be seen**, dressing in fig leaves is **trying to be seen as someone better than we are**:

- Exaggerate our strengths/downplay our weaknesses
- Pretend to be someone we're not
- Look to promotions, possessions, reputations, social media followings, performance as a father, husband, businessman, speaker, friend, etc., to try to get rid of our feelings of inadequacy.



“[My drive in life] has always been to conquer some horrible feeling of inadequacy . . . I push past one spell of it and discover myself as a special human being, [but] then I get to another stage and think I'm mediocre and uninteresting. . . again and again and again. My drive in life is from this horrible fear of being mediocre. And that's always pushing me—because even though I've become 'somebody,' I still have to prove I'm 'somebody.' My struggle has never ended, and it probably never will.”

—Madonna

3. The solution to our problem (3:11-21)

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Adam and Eve hide from THREE parties:

- A. One another** using fig leaves. (v. 7)
- B. God** using the trees. (v. 8)

3. The solution to our problem (3:11-21)

Adam and Eve hide from **THREE** parties:

- A. **One another** using fig leaves. (v. 7)
- B. **God** using the trees. (v. 8)
- C. **Themselves** using excuses for their sin. (vv. 11-13)

3. The solution to our problem (3:11-21)

Instead of damning Adam and Eve, God . . .

A. Promises salvation through Eve's seed. (3:15)

B. Covers them by shedding innocent blood. (3:21)

“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.” (3:21)

3. The solution to our problem (3:11-21)

→ True freedom doesn't come from successfully hiding, but from being fully known and loved by the Savior who shed his blood to make us clean.

→ On the cross, Jesus was stripped naked—bearing all our shame—so that we, through faith in Him, could go back to living naked and unashamed.

Discussion questions

1. What stood out to you from today's teaching or Bible text?
2. What are some ways we hide from God? Others? Ourselves? From whom are you most tempted to hide?
3. What makes being fully known by God a comfort rather than a threat?
4. How does being fully known and loved by God free us to be known and loved by others and even ourselves?