

# The Three Circles

May 24, 2026

**Main Passage: Genesis 2:15-3:24**

## Theological Theme

God's promise to redeem the brokenness of humanity through His gospel of grace has been present from the beginning. The redemptive narrative is true and applies to everyone.

## Introduction

- ❓ How do you respond when someone reacts harshly to the gospel due to their pain and disillusionment?
- ❓ What do you feel are the biggest challenges for believers when they share their faith?

## 1. God's Design (Genesis 2:15-25)

In the first two chapters of Genesis, the writer painted a poetic masterpiece describing the splendor of God's creation. The language in those chapters exploded with the message of creative abundance, luscious surroundings, and worshipful existence. As Genesis 2 opened, the motif of rest emerged amidst the splendor of the garden of Eden, described with the images of precious gems. As the author turned his attention once again to the man in the creation narrative, man was depicted as being specifically placed in the garden by God to accomplish the role God ordained for him. Namely, the man was to "work it and watch over it." From the beginning, the purpose of man was to work in God's perfect creation.

- ❓ What does the description of God's design including safety, rest, and worship indicate about God's character to you?
- ❓ Where in your experience do you come the closest to realizing those aspects of God's design?
- ❓ What does God's design indicate about relationships and how they are a part of God's purpose for humanity?

## 2. Sin Leads to Brokenness (Genesis 3:1-24)

Following on the heels of the glorious close of the creation narrative, the tone of the story changed drastically. Falling from immeasurable heights of intimacy and worship, Genesis 3 opened not with Adam, Eve, or even God Himself—but with a spotlight on a serpent. The catastrophic conversation that followed saw sin enter the world, bringing about the covenantal curses of God. As the serpent crept toward Eve, his sinister words subtly planted seeds of doubt as to the reliability of God's truth: "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden?'"

- ❓ When you read the description of the conversation between Eve and the serpent, what lies do you see? How are those lies similar to the lies that the enemy gets you to believe in life?
- ❓ How does Eve's story help you be vigilant against the false allure of sin?
- ❓ What was the extent of God's curses after sin came into the world? Who was affected? How do you see those effects still occurring today?

### **3. The Gospel Leads to Restored Pursuit of God's Design (Genesis 3:15, 21)**

The first to be cursed as a result of Adam and Eve's rebellion was the serpent. Whatever the serpent looked like in the garden, it was not the common depiction of a slithery reptile slinking along the tree limb. That image was what the serpent was cursed to become. On his belly he would go, eating dust all of his days. Whatever charismatic, seductive creature was persuasive enough to tempt Eve was reduced to a hideous, evil form. Even in this first curse, however, God gave a glimpse of the gospel promise. Promising the ultimate destruction of the serpent, God revealed that that ultimate destruction would come through the woman's offspring. Not only did God promise the end of the serpent, but He also revealed the manner in which it would occur.

- ❓ How does it make you feel to realize that God promised the gospel of Jesus Christ even as early as Genesis 3:15?
- ❓ Read 1 Peter 1:19-21. When did Peter say Jesus' atoning work was planned?
- ❓ When the sacrifice was made and the outward sign of their sin was covered, what evidence was given of their continued relationship with the Lord?

### **Conclusion**

- ❓ Where do you see your own life in the Three Circles? Who initiated gospel conversations with you?
- ❓ How confident are you in your ability to communicate the gospel and your own testimony?
- ❓ What are some of things that you see people trying to use to generate their own fulfillment and glory? What are some evidences that it isn't working?