

Touch Not

Genesis 3:1-8



The sense of touch is one of God's good gifts, a gift which allows us to enjoy the kind handshake or embrace of a friend, the softness of a baby's skin, the warm comfort of a pet's fur, and other delights. However, touch, wrongly used, can be disastrous.

In lovely Eden, Eve saw that the forbidden fruit was attractive, good to eat, and, according to the tempter, "desired to make one wise." She stepped away from the sweet simplicity of trusting and obeying God. Instead, she took and ate the prohibited fruit (*Genesis 3:6*). Eve had to mentally decide to actually touch the fruit before she could eat it. She should have stayed close to God and far away from the forbidden tree.

Are we careful what we touch, how close we get to something that we know is not God's will? Our curiosity and wrong desire for gratification or knowledge can quickly lead us astray.

I remember a relative, when offered a supply of alcoholic beverages, saying, "I wouldn't touch that with a ten-foot pole." Whether we're drawn to explore questionable doctrine, material items or relationships, if God has spoken we should have a "hands off" mindset.

Why is touching dangerous? "When you touch something, you instantly feel more of a connection to it," said a marketing professor at UCLA's Anderson School of Management. "That connection stirs up an emotional reaction — 'Yeah, I like the feel of it. This can be mine.' And that emotion can cause you to buy something you never would have bought if you hadn't touched it."

We are reminded of 2 Corinthians 6:17, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and **touch not the unclean thing.**"



May we desire that "blessing from the LORD" which comes from having "clean hands and a pure heart" (*Psalms 24:4a, 5a*).

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

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