

material things will disappear. So the Serpent said, Did God say you are not to eat of every tree of the garden? And poor Eve was so concerned for the goodness of God that she took God's command and carried it to an extreme. She had to defend God against this attack upon Him.

How easy it is for someone to try to get us to defend what we stand for and in answering them to go into a position which is not what we really stand for. "Yea, hath God said you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" She said, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, Ye shall not eat of it neither shall ye touch it lest ye die. God had not said, Neither shall ye touch it! There are good things in the world that we are better not to touch because they have been so polluted by evil. But the number that are that bad is not perhaps terribly great. Most of the areas of natural life God gives us the right to enjoy. We have a right to touch them, but we must not make them primary in our life. And they may become-- any particular area-- so polluted by Satan's activities and by the activities of wicked men, that a Christian, though he has a right to partake of it, would be wise to abstain from it, altogether. But when he does so, and if he does so he must be careful to make the reason clear that in this particular type of activity there is something inherently evil. If there is he must certainly keep away from it. But there is many a thing that has been polluted by the attitude of wicked men so you had better stay away from it, and there are plenty of other areas in life that God has made available for us. But God never said he must not touch it, but Eve in her desire to defend God from the implication that God was mean--"Yea, has God said?--