

But how much easier it is to listen to the voice of someone you see, whom you talk to, whom you know. Than it is to beware of human influences that have not been tested by the Word of God.

Eve listened to wrong advisors. She failed to put God first. This of course is most important. I remember a man who graduated from seminary not many years ago, who had certain peculiar ideas which he thought were important. So long as he had the great central facts of the Gospel, it did not seem to me so important if he had some what seemed to me to be rather crack-pot ideas on minor points. He was all steamed up about a mission board which he felt agreed with him on these points. He was going to go to a certain country in Africa with this mission board and work with them.

He came through a couple of years ~~a~~ later. I saw him and asked how is your work doing? How did you get back so soon? Well, that field he found it hard to get a visa for. He found that. He'd been trained as an engineer, and now he said I've gone into the air force and I'm an engineer with the air force. God might have wanted him to be in the air force. He might have wanted him to testify to others in the air force. That may have been God's will for him. I don't say it wasn't. He had his heart devoted to serving the Lord, and he was turned from it because of minor things, or because of disagreements on minor points. He was not putting God first, but his own feelings, his own inclinations. His own appetities.

Eve did not put God first. God had told her, You must not eat of this fruit. She broke God's command.

A third thing to notice about Eve's relation to the temptation is that she failed to get the facts straight. The serpent said, Hasn't God said you must not eat of any fruit of the garden? She was so taken up with defending God and His goodness that she said, No that's not true at all. Then she told what was God's command and got it mixed. She made it more severe than it was. "We must not eat of the fruit of the tree in ~~h~~ the midst of the garden." Just one tree out of all these lovely trees. We must not eat of it, ~~xxx~~ neither must we touch it. That was not God's command. Not at all. I don't say she would be wise to touch it. We make a mistake when we touch that which is wrong. We're well advised to stay as far away from it as we can. Yet, those who make points of moral conduct, points that are good, and carry them to an extreme often react to the opposite extreme.

There are many things in which it's possible for us to go to an extreme, and while there may be no harm in it, there is always a tendency to have a reaction to the opposite. There's the tendency of making others think that if you're going to be a Christian you have to take this extreme attitude on this particular point. God did not say not to touch the fruit. They would have been wise not to touch it. She did not get it exact.