

It's Complicated Part 1: Five Lies

"Human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy." ~C.S. Lewis

"They **knew God**, but they wouldn't **worship** him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of **what God was like**. As a **result**, their minds became **dark** and **confused**. Claiming to be **wise**, they instead became utter **fools**... As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. They traded the **truth** about God for a **lie**."

Romans 1:21-25 NLT

In order for **relationships** to work, let the **One** who **designed** them **define** them.

"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.'" "**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. 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**." Genesis 3:1-7 NIV

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20 ESV

"I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." Genesis 3:10 NIV

Step 1: The devil gets us to **question God's Word**.

God's **Word** isn't totally **true**.

"We also thank God continually because, when you **received** the Word of God which you heard from us, you **accepted** it, not as the word of men, but actually as it is, the Word of God, which is **at work** in you **who believe**." 1 Thessalonians 2:13 NIV

"If your god **never disagrees with you**, you might just be worshiping an idealized version of **yourself**." ~Timothy Keller

Step 2: The devil **scuffs at the negative consequences of sin**.

That **choice** won't **hurt** anything.

"There is a way that **appears to be right**, but in the end it leads to **death**." Proverbs 14:12 NIV

Passions need **parameters**.

Step 3: The devil accuses God of evil intent.

Righteousness is **boring**. Sin is **fun**.

"You will show me the **path of life**; In Your presence is fullness of **joy**; At Your right hand are **pleasures** forevermore." Psalm 16:11 NKJV

The most **loving** thing God does is **call us out** of our **sin**.

Step 4: The devil advertises sin as beneficial.

Your life will be **better** with **you leading** it.

"Do you not know that your **bodies** are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your **bodies**." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV

Giving up something **now** for something better **later** isn't a **sacrifice**. It's an **investment**.

Step 5: The devil uses sin to create shame that destroys our future relationships.

It's **too late**. Run and **hide**.

"Those who **look to him for help** will be radiant with joy; **no shadow of shame** will darken their faces." Psalm 34:5 NLT

✓ Defensiveness.

"...**not my will**, but yours be done." Luke 22:42 NIV

✓ Remorse.

"So now there is **no condemnation** for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has **freed you** from the **power of sin** that leads to death." Romans 8:1-2 NLT

✓ Repentance.

"Godly sorrow brings **repentance** that leads to **salvation** and leaves **no regret**, but worldly sorrow brings death." 2 Corinthians 7:10 NIV

Repentance is a **moment** of pain. Being **unrepentant** is a **lifetime** of pain.