

Gospel Lighthouse Church
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Excavation Manhood-Identity

Session 5 Manhood: The Ability to Make Intelligent Choices—Genesis 2:17.

Focused scripture: "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."—Genesis 2:17 NKJV.

Introduction: In Session 5 of *Excavation Manhood–Identity*, we build upon the progression established throughout this journey: **Creativity** → **Productivity** → **Responsibility** → **Supervision** → **Intelligent Choices**. Each stage reveals another layer of authentic manhood according to God's design. Creativity gave man vision, productivity taught him how to produce, responsibility trained him to manage, and supervision aligned and sustained his growth under divine order. Session 5 brings us to a defining reality of mature manhood: the ability to make intelligent choices.

In Genesis 2:17, God introduced Adam to the power and weight of decision-making through His instructional command. God's command revealed that man was created with the identity and capacity to make intelligent choices and decisions. Before man faced life, leadership, or legacy, he was first confronted with choice. This demonstrates that intelligent decision-making is not separate from identity, it is evidence of it. A man's decisions expose what governs him, what he values, and whether he walks in wisdom or impulse.

Although unwise decisions may become part of one's experience, they do not deny the resident God-given ability to make intelligent choices. Failure does not erase design. God's instruction before permission demonstrated that wisdom must guide authority, and discernment must govern freedom. As we continue the excavation process, we discover that true manhood is not merely having freedom but possessing the spiritual intelligence to use freedom wisely.

Intelligent choices are formed through obedience, spiritual discernment, and alignment with God's design. Mature men understand that every decision shapes destiny, and choosing life begins with choosing God's way.

A. Identity Progression: Creativity → Productivity → Responsibility → Supervision → Intelligent Choices.

1. **Session 1: Creativity gives vision.**
2. **Session 2: Productivity produces results.**
3. **Session 3: Responsibility manages.**
4. **Session 4: Supervision aligns and sustains.**
5. **Session 5: Intelligent choices determine direction and destiny.**

Scripture: Genesis 2:17

Freedom and wisdom walk hand in hand. The command not to eat of a certain tree introduced man to moral choice. Every decision shapes destiny. Discernment—choosing what aligns with God's design—is a mark of spiritual intelligence. Mature men choose life by choosing obedience.

B. The danger of rejecting the truth of Genesis 2:17.

When the truth revealed in Genesis 2:17 is not believed and received, man begins to live beneath his created identity. God's instructional command revealed that man was designed with the ability to make intelligent choices through wisdom, obedience, and discernment. Rejecting this truth produces distortions in identity, thinking, behavior, and purpose.

1. **Distortion of Identity.**
 - a. Defines self by failures and emotions rather than God's design, producing insecurity and instability.
2. **Dependency on impulse rather than wisdom.**
 - a. Decisions become driven by feelings and temporary desires, leading to instability in life and spiritual growth.

3. **Resistance to instruction and correction.**
 - a. Correction is seen as restriction, causing pride to reject counsel and accountability.
4. **Confusion about freedom.**
 - a. Freedom is mistaken for life without boundaries, resulting in bondage and disorder instead of maturity.
5. **Loss of discernment.**
 - a. Weakens the ability to recognize truth, allowing fleshly desires to override wisdom and purpose.
6. **Cycles of destructive decisions.**
 - a. Repeated unhealthy choices create shame and delay purpose, though restoration remains possible through repentance and obedience.
7. **Separation from God's intended purpose.**
 - a. Wrong choices gradually distance man from divine purpose, weakening stewardship and spiritual authority.

Key Principle: Unwise decisions may describe experiences, but they do not redefine identity. God created man with the capacity to choose wisely through obedience to His wisdom.

Unwise decisions may describe experiences, but they do not redefine identity. In Genesis 2:17, when God warned Adam concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, His words revealed more than prohibition—they revealed identity, trust, relationship, and spiritual alignment. Before Adam ever failed, he was already formed, loved, blessed, and given purpose by God. His identity was established before temptation appeared. This exposes the enemy's lie that failure defines a person. The accuser—the devil, immature voices, and even our own thoughts may attempt to shame us through past mistakes, but God's original design shows that identity precedes responsibility and is received through relationship with Him, not earned through flawless performance. According to Hebrews 4:12, the Word of God is living, active, and sharper than any two-edged sword; therefore, excavated truth about identity becomes a spiritual weapon against condemnation, lies, and tormenting thoughts. Believers must practice Second Corinthians 10:4–5 by casting down imaginations and every argument that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, replacing false labels with God's truth and bringing every thought into obedience to Christ. When identity is rooted in what God has spoken rather than in past failures, believers can repent, grow, and mature without surrendering to shame, remaining anchored in God's redemptive purpose.

C. The benefits of excavating the Identity truths hidden beneath the surface of Genesis 2:17.

1. **Identity is rooted in relationship with God.**
 - a. Identity is received through God's love, purpose, and relationship—not earned by performance.
2. **It exposes the enemy's strategy of identity distortion.**
 - a. The enemy uses shame and accusation to distort identity, but failure does not redefine who God says we are.
3. **It restores spiritual discernment.**
 - a. Men learn to distinguish God's correction from condemnation and separate failure from identity.
4. **It produces freedom from shame.**
 - a. Grace replaces hiding and fear with repentance, healing, and restoration.
5. **It anchors identity in redemption rather than failure.**
 - a. God's redemptive voice through Jesus Christ is greater than shame, mistakes, or human opinion.
6. **It encourages maturity and compassion toward others.**
 - a. Personal restoration cultivates humility, accountability, and compassionate restoration of others.

Assignment: Review and discuss the deeper truths within Genesis 2:17. It reveals that the battle after the fall was largely a battle over identity. God continually calls men beyond shame, accusation, and past failure into restored identity, discernment, and redeemed purpose.

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