

The First Command Genesis 2:16-17

God's first command to Adam reveals the principles of provision, prohibition and penalty.

The First Command

- What can we learn about The Lawgiver from the laws He gives?
- What are the characteristics of His Person found in His laws?
- Are there patterns in His laws that can serve as guidelines for my life?

Genesis 1 Panoramic View	Genesis 2 Small, Selective View
1:1-2:3 overviews the entire week: 6 days of creation & one day of rest	2:4-25 primarily "goes back" to latter part of the 6 th day. WHY?
Commands to both Adam and Eve in 1:26-31	Commands only to Adam in 2:16-17 (pre-Eve)
Creation of Adam and Eve together	Creation of Adam first, then Eve

The Garden (Genesis 2:7-15)

Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. **Then the Lord God took the man and placed him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.**

A Closer Look at the Garden

What can we learn about this "garden"?

- mentioned 14 times in Genesis
- has a middle (2:9 & 3:3)
- has a river (2:10)
- has trees (3:2 & 3:8)
- God took walks in it (3:8)
- Adam hid from God in it (3:10)
- Jordan River Valley is "like the garden" (13:10)

The First Command (Genesis 2:16-17)

And the Lord God commanded the man saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die".

- From any tree of the garden you may eat freely
 - Provision: Large

- But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat
 - Prohibition: Small
- For in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die
 - Penalty: Clear

The First Command Principles in Bible

Provision – Large
 Ephesians 1:3
 Colossians 2:10
 2 Peter 1:3

Prohibition – Small
 Exodus 20:3
 1 Timothy 6:11
 2 Timothy 2:22

Penalty – Clear
 Romans 6:23
 1 Corinthians 3:15
 1 Timothy 1:19

One Flesh Formed (Genesis 2:18-25)

God said, It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.
 The man said, This is now bone of my bones... they shall become one flesh...
 Completed for Obedience

Summary of Genesis 2

With the world in its infancy, the Lord God created the first man with the capacity to serve God and the responsibility to keep God’s commandments, placing him in a perfect environment with every provision and completing him with a corresponding partner in the service of God. (Allen Ross, *Creation & Blessing*)

Provision – Ignore/Reduce
 Prohibition – Increase
 Penalty – Ignore/Reduce

The Enemy of God

Enter: The Serpent (Genesis 3:1)
 Now the serpent was more **crafty** than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.
 And he said to the woman, “**Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’**”

God in Genesis 2:16-17	Serpent in Genesis 3
From any tree of the garden you may eat freely	Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall <u>not</u> eat from any tree of the garden’?
Provision: large	Provision: ignored Prohibition: increased
God’s abundant provision for His creatures	The serpent ignores God’s provision and diverts to prohibition

God in Genesis 2:16-17**Serpent in Genesis 3**

For in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die	You surely will <u>not</u> die!
Penalty: clear	Penalty: reduced
God clearly warns of the penalty for disobedience	The serpent directly rejects God's clearly stated penalty

God in Genesis 2:16-17**Eve in Genesis 3**

From any tree of the garden you may eat freely	From the fruit of the trees in the garden we may eat
But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat	But from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it'
For in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die	Lest we die

God	Mankind
Provision: large	Provision: reduce
Prohibition: small	Prohibition: increase
Penalty: clear	Penalty: reduce

Principles to Ponder

Consider my relationship with God:

- Do I recognize His large provision for me?
- Do I overemphasize His prohibitions?
- Do I ignore His right to discipline?
- Do I know His word precisely so to obey it carefully and correctly?

Consider my patterns with others at Home/Friends/Work

- Do I provide well for those in my care?
- Am I reasonable in what I prohibit?
- Are my penalties clearly stated?