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The Greatest Challenge in Producing Good

*Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" - **(Genesis 3:10-12 NKJV)***

As was said previously, work may be of many kinds. It might include having and raising children, developing good personal relations, being artistically creative, leading politically, working in the church of Jesus Christ to spread the truth, building houses, running trains, doing all the necessary work available to human beings as they live together in this world to produce what is good. But regardless of our specific work, the real challenge to every person's faith is that we do everything to the glory of God, even in the smallest actions of our days. And this will certainly entail making sure we do not sacrifice our families to our ministry or jobs.

Here is a truth you must never forget: God is more interested in your life than he is in any of the other things listed above. He's more interested in the person you are becoming than in your work, or your ministry, or your job. And the surest way to realize the full potential of your God-designed self is to live in eternity while you are in time, conscious of the loving gaze of your all-sufficient Shepherd, in whose care nothing of the good you do is lost. It is stored up in your own self and in the lives of others, you have touched.

The greatest challenge to creating good and living as God has appointed us to live lies primarily within our most intimate personal relationships. This is very difficult to talk about because this is the primary area of human failure. When Satan came to tempt mankind, he tempted us in a way that would, in one blow, rupture the relationship of trust between man and God, and also between man and woman. Then, once this trust was ruptured, the relationship between brothers quickly followed, and we had our first murder.

The serpent sowed the seed of doubt in Eve's mind and led her to question and mistrust God. That seed of doubt moved her to take action that was contrary to his will, to provide for herself and try to survive. The effect was that she and Adam immediately understood their position; they hid when God came to find them. It is important to understand that this reference to nakedness is not chiefly about a lack of clothing. It's true that God allows man to hide, and clothes are no doubt very important. Nakedness here, however, refers primarily to human vulnerability.

Practice: *Up to this point Adam did not realize his finitude. Then, after his sin, he certainly did know, and in his vulnerable state, he sought to protect himself. He had accepted Eve's invitation, but who did he think was to blame for that? Not Adam, surely! And not really the woman. Adam accused God, charging him with wrongdoing: "The woman you gave me got us into this!" Then Eve said, "Well, the serpent tricked me and I ate the fruit" (Gen. 3:13 PAR). What are the ways we seek to shift the blame away from ourselves when confronted with our own brokenness and the ways our lives simply don't work?*