

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, unsanctioned knowledge opened their eyes to their shame. We learn from this spare but profound and pivotal account that sight apart from God, outside of God's plan and sanction, lacking its divine element, is distorted sight. Adam and Eve weren't blind before grasping forbidden fruit for unsanctioned knowledge. They had the sight that God intended. They were naked and yet felt no shame. Only when they sought sight for knowledge that God had forbidden did they feel shame, a shame that they otherwise need not have felt.



The lesson may thus include not just that disobeying God is a bad thing but also that looks deceive, not just the look of a thing but rather the unauthorized looking at a thing. In other words, pursuing knowledge can deceive, especially when the knowledge we pursue doesn't bear God's sanction. Be careful where you look.

Be even more careful with why you are looking. And be most careful to ensure that God sanctions the knowledge you seek by looking. Indeed, turn your gaze toward him, not toward your desires outside of him. God offers many wonders to investigate. He gives us many profoundly beautiful and satisfying things after which to look. We need not look for other things where we lack his authority and affirming sanction.