“The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate’” (Gen. 3:12-13).

The story of the fall of humanity provides us with an important lesson for marriage - taking responsibility. When conflict arises, we may respond with a knee-jerk reaction of placing blame on our spouse, rather than looking first at ourselves and our role in the conflict. In the next week, whenever you and your spouse disagree, pause and consider your part in the disagreement before you speak. Then, after several days, discuss the impact of this “pause” on your relationship.