Fencing the Tree

Genesis 3:22-24
Small Group Questions
WEEK OF OCTOBER 4-10, 2026

(1) Read Genesis 3:22-24. How do verses relate to the verses that have just come before?

(2) What reasons do we have to understand God's words in v 22 to be divine communication in the Trinity? (Compare with Genesis 1:26.)

(3) If humanity is meant to be "like God" as His image-bearers, why is being "like one of Us" in v 22 a bad thing?

(4) What are your thoughts on John Calvin's remark that "the tree of life was for [Adam] a sacrament, just as baptism and the Supper are for us"?

   (a) What is a sacrament? Consider these historical definitions:

   "A visible form of an invisible grace." (Augustine)

   "Sacraments are sacred signs and seals set before our eyes and instituted by God for this purpose: that He may declare and confirm the promise of His gospel to us."
   (Hercules Collins, *An Orthodox Catechism*)

   (b) How is it helpful to understand the tree of life as *sacramental* rather than magical (i.e., magic fruit that is like the mystical Fountain of Youth)?

   (c) Why does God bar us from the Tree of Life in our sinful condition? How come this is important for us?

(5) What ought we to make of the cherubim and flaming sword at the entrance to the garden?

(6) How do the cherubim, tree, garden, and the presence of God work together in Exodus 25-26 and 1 Kings 6:23-35 to show us the grace of God in working to bring us back into fellowship with Him like in Eden?

(7) How is Jesus Christ the only way to regain access to the tree of life? (John 14:6; Galatians 3:13; Revelation 22)