

XI. Hamartiology; The Doctrine of Sin

1. Definition: “Sin is a failure to conform to God’s moral law not only in action and in attitude, but also in our moral nature.” Grudem
 - a. Romans 1:18, “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness”
 - b. Romans 3: 23; “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”

2. Introduction of sin:
 - a. Isa 14:12-17
 - b. Eze. 28; prophecy against the “king of Tyre.”
 - c. Gen. 3:1-6

3. The reality of sin:
 - a. Scriptures: John 1:29, ““Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
 - b. Gal 2:22, “But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.”
 - c. Men’s testimonies:
 - 1) Roman philosopher Seneca, “We have all sinned, some more, some less.”
 - 2) The Roman Ovid wrote, “We all strive for what is forbidden.”
 - 3) The German poet Goethe, “I see no fault in others which I myself might not have committed.”
 - 4) Chinese proverb, “There are two good men: one is dead and the other is not yet born.”
 - d. Our conscience- Everyone knows he is a sinner.

4. The Nature of sin:
 - a. What sin is **not**:
 - 1) Sin is not infirmity. It is not a disease.
 - 2) Sin is not a negation, as taught by Christian Science. Evil is not the absence of good, and sin is not the absence of righteousness. Psalm 51:4, “Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.”
 - 3) Sin is not an amiable weakness, to be pitied.
 - 4) Sin is not necessary. I John 1:7, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

5. The Extent of sin:
 - a. The Heavens. Job 1:6
 - b. The Earth. Rom. 8:22, "We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."
 - 1) The inanimate kingdom: Gen. 3:17, "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life."
 - 2) The animal kingdom: Isa 11:6, "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat..."
 - 3) The human race.

6. The results of sin upon man:
 - a. All have sinned. Psalm 14:2; Isa. 53:6; Rom. 3:9; I John 1:8-10
 - b. We are all guilty. Psalm 130:3; Rom. 3:19
 - c. All under a curse. Gal 3:10
 - d. All children of the devil. Jn 8:44; I Jn 3:8-10
 - e. A stranger to the things of God. I Cor. 2:14
 - f. Heart is deceitful. Jer. 17:9
 - g. Alienated from the life of God. Eph. 4:18
 - h. Mental and morally corrupt. Psalm 94:11; Rom. 1:19-31
 - i. Outward behaviors are vile and detestable. Eph. 2:3; Col. 3:5-7
 - j. A slave to sin. Rom. 6:17
 - k. Controlled by Satan. Eph. 2:2
 - l. Mind has hostility towards God. Rom. 8:7-8
 - m. Man is a child of wrath. Eph. 2:3
 - n. Dead in trespasses. Eph. 2:1
 - o. Body is weakened and is bound for death. II Cor. 4:7; Rom. 8:11

7. The penalty of sin: Death (Thanatos)
 - a. Physical death.
 - b. Spiritual death.
 - c. Eternal death. Matt. 25:41; Rev. 21:8

8. What happens when a Christian sins?
 - a. Our legal standing before God does not change. Rom. 8:1, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,"
 - b. Our relationship with God is hurt. Eph. 4:30; Heb. 12:6

9. What about “Original or Inherited sin?”

- a. Definition: All men are guilty of sin because of Adam’s sin. We inherited his sin because we are his descendents.
- b. Key passages: Isaiah 51; Romans 5: 12-21
- c. Some see this not as “imputed,” but more of a disposition.
- d. Note*** We inherited Adam’s sin nature, but we also inherit Christ’s righteous nature when we are saved.
- e. What about infants who die? Some believe that God saves those infants whose parents are believers. II Sam. 12:23, “But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

10. What is the “Unpardonable sin?”

a. Scriptures:

- 1) Matt 12: 31-32, “And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”
- 2) Mark 3: 29-30, “But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin.”
- 3) Heb. 6: 4-6, “It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.”

b. 4 views:

- 1) A sin that can only be committed while Jesus was on earth.
- 2) Unbelief held onto until death.
- 3) A Sin that can only be done by born again believer who commits apostasy.
- 4) A Sin that is malicious against the Holy Spirit, slanderous against God, attributing God’s work to Satan, and done by believer or unbeliever with full knowledge of what is being said and done.