

***SIN***  
***(AN OVERVIEW)***

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# WHAT IS “SIN” ?

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- **Is it going against God’s Ten Commandments ?**
- **1 John 3.4: Sin = lawlessness**
- **A key definition by Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* ...**

**"Sin is a very serious matter, and is taken seriously by God, though men often make light of it. It is not only a transgression of the law of God, but an attack on the great Lawgiver Himself, a revolt against God. It is an infringement on the inviolable righteousness of God, which is the very foundation of His throne (Ps. 97:2), and an affront to the spotless holiness of God, which requires of us that we be holy in all manner of living (1 Pet. 1:16)" x**

# A BAFFLING SUBJECT: IMPUTED SIN

(The “Original Sin” ??)

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**"Impute" - "to attribute or reckon or ascribe something to someone"**

*Ryrie's Basic Theology*

- **Examples: Ps 32.2, Rom 5.13**
- **The three key Imputations of the Bible:**
  - **Adam's sin imputed to THE RACE - Rom 5.12-21**
  - **Man's sin imputed TO CHRIST - (2 Cor 5.19, 1 Pet 2.24)**
  - **Christ's righteousness imputed TO BELIEVERS - (2 Cor 5.21)**
- **We will concentrate on understanding Adam's sin imputed to the Race x**

# IMPUTED SIN (CONT'D)

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- **This is a concern for serious Christians**
  - **2002 Survey ...**
    - **74 % rejected the idea of an original sin**
    - **Only 52 % of evangelicals held to the doctrine**
  - **Some key interpretations of Rom 3.23 & 5.12-21**
    - **Interpretation # 1**
      - **Rom 3.23 "All have sinned ..."**
      - **From A New Testament Commentary, Allen, Leslie C.**  
  
**“ 'Sinned' refers to actual sins (cf. 3:23) viewed as an individual expression and endorsement of Adam's representative act.”**
    - **Rom 5.15-19**
      - **Adam's sin caused the penalty over all x**

# IMPUTED SIN (CONT'D)

- **Some key interpretations of Rom 3.23 & 5.12-21 (cont'd)**
  - **Interpretation # 2**
    - **"all are sinners" or "all are sinful" = a state of condition**
    - **William G. T. Shedd, in *Dogmatic Theology*, states that the phrase would require "to be" added to it**
  - **Interpretation # 3 = the most fitting to Rom 3.23 & 5.12-21**
    - **Note this from A. Berkeley Mickelsen in *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary* .....**

**"The tense of the verb indicates a distinct historic entrance.... Physical death came to all men but not because they were all in the process of individually sinning. All men did sin (except for infants dying in infancy) experientially. But Paul is not talking about that here. The sin of all is centered in that of the one man Adam." x**

# IMPUTED SIN (CONT'D)

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- **Interpretation # 3** (*cont'd*)

- **Penalty of Adam's sin ("the" Original Sin) was PHYSICAL death to human race**

- **Rom 5.12 – "entered" .... "spread"**
- **Rom 5.19 – "were made"**

**Gk *kathisemi* > "stand constituted as"**

- **All humans became sinners as a result of Adam's sin**
- **Entire human race is considered to have sinned in Adam's sin**

- **BUT I WASN'T THERE !! HOW COULD THIS BE FAIR ?? x**

# IMPUTED SIN (CONT'D)

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- **Two viewpoints as to how this happened**
  - **# 1 – The Federal or Representative View**
    - **Basis – the concept of a Covenant of Works**
      - **God started it with Adam**
    - **Hodge, *Systematic Theology***

**"God made to Adam a promise suspended upon a condition, and attached to disobedience a certain penalty. This is what in Scriptural language is meant by a covenant."**

- **Adam represents the whole race**
- **When Adam sinned, God viewed all humans as involved, and his sin caused the condemnation of the entire race** x

# IMPUTED SIN (CONT'D)

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- **Two viewpoints as to how this happened (cont'd)**
  - **# 2 – The Seminal or Realistic View**
    - **“seminal”**
      - **Merriam Webster Dictionary: “containing the seeds of later development“**
    - **Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology***

**[This view ] “...sees Adam as containing the seed of all his posterity so that when he sinned, all actually sinned.“**

- **Examples**
  - **Achan’s sin & results (Josh 7.24-26)**
  - **Levi paid Melchizedek tithes before he was born (Heb 7.9-10)**
- **Therefore, since we were all in Adam at the time he sinned against God's covenant, we all sinned x**

# IMPUTED SIN (CONT'D)

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- **SUMMARY: Note the difference between Imputed Sin & Inherited Sin**
- **IMPUTED SIN**
  - **Directly transmitted to me from Adam, since I was in Adam when he sinned**
  - **This was God's judicial decision**
  - **It did not involve my parents**
  - **It's specific penalty is physical death**
  - **It's remedy is Christ's righteousness imputed on my belief in His effectual sacrifice for my sins x**

# IMPUTED SIN (CONT'D)

- **SUMMARY: Note the difference between Imputed & Inherited Sin (cont'd)**

- **INHERITED SIN**

- **The change in mankind's NATURE caused by Adam's sin**
- **Paul S. Karleen, *The Handbook to Bible Study***

**"The sin of Adam resulted in a polluted human nature, passed down from generation to generation"**

- **Samuel M. Jackson (Ed.)**  
***The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge***

**"... human nature in its entirety was in Adam when he sinned, that his sin was the act of human nature, and that in this sin human nature fell; that is, lost its freedom to the good, becoming wholly sinful and producing sinners"**

- **This is the sin nature passed on to me by my parents**
- **It's specific penalty is spiritual death (polluted human nature)**
- **Its remedy is redemption through Christ AND God's gift of the Holy Spirit x**

# PERSONAL SIN

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- **Mankind's disposition to sin is attested to by Scripture**
  - **Paul gives a thorough summary in Rom 3.9-18**
  - **Specific examples of sin**
    - **Lying ...                      John 1.6**
    - **Prejudice ...                      James 2.4**
    - **Sensuality ...                      1 Cor 3.1-4**
    - **A fuller list ...                      (Gal 5.19-21)**
      - **Note in vs 21 "practice" > Gk pras-so = exercise, to be busy with**
- **Practical proof that original sin was passed to all humans**

**"Certain new theologians dispute original sin, which is the only part of Christian theology which can really be proved"**

**G.K. Chesterton x**

# PERSONAL SIN (CONT'D)

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- **Practical proof that original sin was passed to all humans *(cont'd)***

- **Even non-Christian scholars recognize it**

**"I think Christianity is spot on about original sin - how could one think otherwise when the world's most civilized and advanced people (the people of Beethoven, Goethe, Kant) embraced that slime-ball Hitler and participated in the Holocaust ?"**

**Michael Ruse, Atheist Darwinist**

- **A startling fact about humanity & the human nature**

**Hannah Arendt, Auschwitz survivor, at Adolph Eichman's trial ...**

**"...there were so many like him, neither perverted nor sadistic, that they were, and still are, terribly and terrifyingly normal..."** x

# PERSONAL SIN (CONT'D)

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- **Some facts about personal sins**
  - **Personal sin is universal (Rom 3.8-9)**
  - **Many personal sins are committed deliberately (2 Cor 10.5)**
    - **NOT DOING God's prescribed will is also a sin (Jam 4.17)**
    - **Many sins originate in the mind, then develop (Matt 5.27-28)**
  - **Personal sins are classified**
    - **Jesus stated that Caiaphas had greater sin than Pilate**
    - **Sins of defiance are greater than sins of ignorance**
    - **Grave sins – Unpardonable sin, sin unto death**
  - **Personal sins are not transmitted to others**
    - **Classic challenge verses (Deut 5.9) vs (Ezek 18.20)**
      - **Note in Deut 5.9b "...of those who hate Me ..."** x

# PERSONAL SIN (CONT'D)

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- **Personal sin's results**
  - **The key result is the loss of fellowship**
  - **For the unbeliever**
    - **Loss of fellowship with God**
    - **Eternal loss if Christ's payment for sin is not accepted**
  - **For the believer ...**
    - **Loss of the pleasure of fellowship with Christ, & within His family**
    - **Not regained until the sin is confessed to Christ**
- **Personal sin's remedy**
  - **For the unbeliever (Eph 1.7)**
  - **For the believer (1 Jn 1.9) x**

# ASPECTS OF SIN – SUMMARY

## A COMPARISON OF THE SEVERAL ASPECTS OF SIN

ASPECT	SCRIPTURE	TRANSMISSION	PRINCIPAL CONSEQUENCE	REMEDY
<b>INHERITED SIN</b>	Ephesians 2:3	Generation to generation	Spiritual death	Redemption and the gift of the Holy Spirit
<b>IMPUTED SIN</b>	Romans 5:12	Direct from Adam to me	Physical death	Imputed righteousness
<b>PERSONAL SINS</b>	Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:9	None	Loss of fellowship	Forgiveness

# SIN AND THE BELIEVER

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## CAN THE BELIEVER COMMIT SIN?

- Two common errors about this
  - # 1: The believer has been perfected on believing in Christ
    - The root of sin was removed when his sins were paid for
      - (Prov 20.9, 1 Jn 1.8)
    - OR... The believer can avoid practicing sin (1 Jn 1.10)
    - Correct biblical view: moving from spiritual immaturity to maturity (1 Cor 3.1, 14.20, Heb 6.1)
      - (Col 1.28) “complete in Christ” > *teleion* = spiritual maturity
  - # 2: The believer is not bound by the law (antinomianism)
    - The believer IS bound by the Law of Christ (Gal 6.2, 5.14, Jn 13.34-35) x

# SIN AND THE BELIEVER (CONT'D)

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## GOD'S EXPECTATION FOR THE BELIEVER

- **It is not perfection or total freedom from a law**
  - **It is to walk in the light (1 Jn 1.7)**
    - **God IS the Light, IS holy, and sets the standard (1 Pet 1.6)**
  - **HOW does the believer walk in the light ?**
    - **(1 Jn 3.24) Note the key concept of abiding**
    - **(Jn 7.17) "... is willing to do ... he will know ..."**
    - **(Jn 15.5) Abiding is IN JESUS**
    - **The believer is able to abide because of the Spirit, IF the believer is willing (1 Jn 2.6, 3.6) x**

# SIN AND THE BELIEVER (CONT'D)

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## Forces working against walking in the light

- **# 1: The world**
  - **Satan controls the world system (cosmos)**
  - **It's chief operating mode is counterfeiting**
  - **The believer's defenses**
    - **The armor (Eph 6.13-18)**
    - **Being aware of Satan's worldly schemes (2 Cor 2.10-11)**
    - **Watching for Satan's actions among us (1 Pet 5.8)**
    - **Faith in Jesus' victories (1 Jn 5.4-5)**
    - **Believer must fight actively against Satan's actions and temptations (1 Tim 6.12) x**

# SIN AND THE BELIEVER (CONT'D)

## Forces working against walking in the light (cont'd)

### • # 2: Our flesh

#### • What is “the flesh” ?

“The physical aspect of human beings, which distinguishes them from God and is therefore frequently used in the NT as a symbol of human sinful nature in contrast with God’s perfection. “

Martin Manser, *Dictionary of Bible Themes*

#### • How can the believer keep the flesh from causing sin ?

##### • (Gal 5.24) Believer must “crucify the flesh“

##### • How ?? (Rom 6.6)

- Believer must *recognize* that the old self was crucified with Christ, and he/she is no longer a slave to sin

##### • Commentator Neander in *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*, Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D

“The act by which they have crucified the flesh with its lust, is already accomplished ideally in principle. But the practice, or outward conformation of the life, must harmonize with the tendency given to the inward life” x

# SIN AND THE BELIEVER (CONT'D)

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## Forces working against walking in the light *(cont'd)*

### **Sin's Draw**

**John Owen ...**

**“Sin aims always at the utmost; every time it rises up to tempt or entice, might it have its own course, it would go out to the utmost sin in that kind. Every unclean thought or glance would be adultery if it could; every covetous desire would be oppression, every thought of unbelief would be atheism, might it grow to its head. Men may come to that, that sin may not be heard speaking a scandalous word in their hearts – that is, provoking to any great sin with scandal in its mouth; but yet every rise of lust, might it have its course, would come to the height of villainy: it is like the grave that is never satisfied.” <sup>x</sup>**

# SIN AND THE BELIEVER (CONT'D)

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## Forces working against walking in the light *(cont'd)*

- **# 3: The Devil**
  - **Satan has a planned strategy and is a powerful adversary (Eph 6.11-12, 1 Jn 4.4)**
  - **His attacks are relentless (1 Pet 5.8) x**

# SIN AND THE BELIEVER (CONT'D)

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## Forces aiding the believer in walking in the light

- **Knowing/memorizing God's Word (Ps 119.11)**
- **Counting on/praying for Christ's intercession for us**
  - **(Heb 7.25, Jn 17.15-17)**
- **The Holy Spirit in us**
  - **Empowering our position in Christ - Gal 5**
  - **Teaching/wisdom about complexities of sin (1 Cor 2.9-10)**
  - **Coaching and conveying prayer (Rom 8.26)**
  - **Providing enabling powers to serve (1 Cor 12.4,11) x**

# CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

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- **Scriptural Guarantees**

- **If we sin ..... 1 John 1.9**

**“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

- **Our protections from sin .... (Rom 8.38-39)**

- **From Pastor Rivers ....**

- **In this divided world (including Christ's church), sin is a unifier**
  - **We are all broken and need Jesus**
  - **Differences tend to divide, but Christ's blood is the unifier** x