



# Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

TOPIC 5 – THE DOCTRINE OF SIN  
LESSON 91 – THE ORIGIN OF SIN

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# Where did sin come from?

- ▶ Sin is not a created thing. It is a condition affecting our relationship with God.
- ▶ God cannot sin, did not create sin, and does not tempt anyone to sin (Deut. 32:4; Titus 1:2; James 1:13).
- ▶ Sin did not surprise God or in any way undo His plans for creation.
- ▶ Men and angels sinned and their sin was a willful, voluntary choice.
- ▶ Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan, who came to them in the form of a serpent. Satan was the first being to fall into sin, taking 1/3 of the angels with him, and then by temptation, all of humanity through the sin of Adam.
- ▶ Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

# Where did sin come from?

- ▶ Satan's fall was the result of his desire (lust) to take God's place, rebelling against Him in his attempt to "be like the Most High" (Isa. 14:11-12).
- ▶ Satan tempted Adam and Eve with the same lie, that if they disobeyed God and ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil then they would be enlightened and like God (Gen. 3:6).
- ▶ Upon sinning, Adam and Eve were immediately ashamed and hid themselves from God.
- ▶ Since Lucifer, and Adam and Eve were created sinless, where did their sin come from? God did ordain sin, and allow it, according to the counsel of His will (Eph. 1:11).
- ▶ God created Lucifer and Adam and Eve with the capacity to sin, yet He did not create them as sinners. Now that they had sinned, they cannot escape the consequences of their sin. Trying to make themselves their own god they enslaved themselves and their progeny to fallenness.

# Human Nature in its 4-fold state

- ▶ These four states, which are derived from the Scripture, correspond to the four states of man in relation to sin enumerated by Augustine of Hippo: (a) able to sin, able not to sin (*posse peccare, posse non peccare*); (b) not able not to sin (*non posse non peccare*); (c) able not to sin (*posse non peccare*); and (d) unable to sin (*non posse peccare*). The first state corresponds to the state of man in innocency, before the Fall; the second the state of the natural man after the Fall; the third the state of the regenerate man; and the fourth the glorified man.
- ▶ - Augustine on the Doctrine of the Bondage of the Will

# God and Sin

- ▶ God is able to overcome sin and has even ordained it to most fully display His glory.
- ▶ God's absolute sovereignty in no way undermines man's accountability.
- ▶ Job 34:10 Therefore listen to me, you men of understanding: Far be it from God to do wickedness, and from the Almighty to commit iniquity.
- ▶ Deut. 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.
- ▶ Psalm 92:15 To declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.
- ▶ James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

# God and Sin

- ▶ Deut. 25:16 For all who do such things, all who behave unrighteously, are an abomination to the Lord your God.
- ▶ Psalm 5:4 For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You.
- ▶ Psalm 11:5 The Lord tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.
- ▶ Zechariah 8:17 Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; And do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate,' Says the Lord."
- ▶ Luke 16:15 And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

# Consequences of the Fall

- ▶ Sin always disappoints and never truly satisfies. It enslaves us.
- ▶ When Adam and Eve's "eyes were opened" they did not discover contentment and bliss, and instead experienced guilt and shame.
- ▶ Adam and Eve now knew sin experientially and this led to fear (Gen. 3:10).
- ▶ Another result of sin was blame. Adam blamed God (Gen. 3:12). Eve blamed the serpent (Gen. 3:13).
- ▶ The most devastating consequence of sin is death (Gen. 2:17).

# The Fall and Relationships

- ▶ Mankind was created to have relationships with God, each other, and the creation itself. All three were destroyed by the fall.
- ▶ Man's relationship to God was severed. He became spiritually dead. (see Three Forms of Death).
- ▶ In our relationship with God now we start with wrath – His righteous displeasure with us and our sin (Rom. 1:18; Col. 3:5-6; Eph. 5:6).
- ▶ Sin also involves God's punishment. Because He is holy and righteous, He must punish sin as it is a violation of His Word and His nature.
- ▶ The seriousness of sin's punishment is demonstrated when the Son of God took upon Himself the punishment for the sins of all God's elect on the cross.
- ▶ Sin creates enmity, a hostile situation between people (Rom. 5:10) as we are alienated from the life of God (Rom. 8:7).

# The Fall and Relationships

- ▶ Next, sin disrupted all human relationships.
- ▶ First, God said the woman would have increased pain in childbirth, so that even the blessing of procreation would be difficult (Gen. 3:16).
- ▶ Second, tension between man and woman in the basic and necessary union of marriage would also be a constant reality (Gen. 3:16). The wife will desire control and the man will then rule as a despot. Both take instead of give and make marriage about self-fulfillment and not sanctification.
- ▶ Third, strife between people in society is promised and realized. Almost immediately Cain murdered his brother Abel due to jealousy (Gen. 4:8). This was just the beginning of strife, fighting, and wars.

# The Fall and Relationships

- ▶ Man's sin also negatively affected all of creation. His mandate to rule and subdue the earth is not revoked (Psa. 8:4-8), but creation now works against man and frustrates his efforts (Gen. 3:17).
- ▶ The cursed ground leads to pain, hard work, difficulties, and eventually death (Gen. 3:18-19).
- ▶ Now all of creation groans, longing and waiting for redemption (Rom. 8:21-22).

# Three Forms of Death

- ▶ The most widespread and devastating result of sin can be summarized in one word – death. Death is the penalty for disobedience to God’s command. This involves spiritual death, physical death, and eternal death.
- ▶ Spiritual death happened instantly as Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s command and are the fruit. This is the spiritual state of being alienated from God.
- ▶ As a result of Adam’s sin, all people descending naturally from him are born spiritually dead.
- ▶ Ephesians 2:1 explains this – “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.”
- ▶ This spiritual death means separation from God, banishment from His presence, and forfeiture of spiritual life, rendering all men unresponsive to spiritual truth (Rom. 8:7-8; 1 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 4:17-18).

# Three Forms of Death

- ▶ Physical death while promised was not immediate for Adam and Eve when they sinned. They died spiritually immediately and also began the process of dying physically (Gen. 3:19).
- ▶ Because of sin, Adam would return to the dust from which he had been created.
- ▶ Even before any human died, there was animal death introduced into the world as an animal was killed to provide clothing (covering) for Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:21).
- ▶ Human death first occurred when their firstborn Abel was murdered by his brother Cain (Gen. 4:8).
- ▶ In the list of Adam's descendants given in Genesis 5 we read after every person listed "and he died" (Gen. 5:5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31). The only exceptions in the world being Enoch and Elijah, and later those alive when Christ returns.
- ▶ Psalm 90:10 The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

# Three Forms of Death

- ▶ Eternal death awaits those who die while being spiritually dead (not having been regenerated by the Spirit of God). Those who die in unbelief face the Lake of Fire forever (Rev. 20:11-15).
- ▶ John refers to this as the “second death” (Rev. 20:6). While this does not cause people to cease to exist, eternal death is still a kind of death since it involves everlasting ruin, punishment, and separation from God’s goodness and mercy. It is to experience God in His wrath and holy justice without a Mediator, forever.
- ▶ To experience this second death, described as with worms and everlasting torments, is to be always dying but never finally dead.
- ▶ Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power.

# Death Defeated

- ▶ Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- ▶ Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:50 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” 55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

# Next Week

- ▶ Lesson 92 – Adam's Sin and You