

Doctrine of Original Sin

1. A popular misunderstanding of original sin, is that it refers to the first sin that Adam and Eve committed.
2. In actuality, original sin does not refer to the act of the first sin by Adam and Eve, but to the consequences, or result of that sin.
3. Original sin is not an actual sin. A distinction is made between original sin, and actual sin.
4. Original sin describes the Fallen sinful condition of the natural man, out of which actual sins progress.
5. A person is not a sinner because he sins. Rather, a person sins because he is a sinner. The natural man has a Fallen nature that is bent to sinning from the moment of birth.
 - *Psalms 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.*
6. Original sin describes the fallen condition of the present human race. There is something inherently wrong with human nature. Rational observation confirms that man is terribly flawed.
7. The question arises, "If man is by nature good, how is the evil people do explained?" Culture can be blamed until the question is asked, "Why is culture corrupt if man came into the world basically good, and with no bent to sin?"
8. The Scriptures declare what a rational person can perceive, individuals are born in a state of moral corruption.
9. The Bible states that this original sin is the judgment of God upon a good creature He made as a result of moral transgression.
 - *Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*
10. God gave Adam and Eve over their evil impulses, as He gives all who love wickedness over to their evil impulses.
 - *Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:*
11. The guilt of Adam was transferred to his posterity.

12. Augustine taught, concerning original sin, that when God made Adam and Eve, He made them, *posse peccare*, which is Latin for the possibility, or ability to sin.
13. Adam and Eve were also created with the, *posse non peccare*, which is Latin for the possibility, or ability to not sin. Adam and Eve had the ability to eat, of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. They also had the ability to not eat and thereby obey the known will of God. When the hour of temptation came, Adam and Eve chose to sin.
- *Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*
14. After the Fall, man lost his *posse non peccare*, his ability to not sin. He was now possessed with *non posse non peccare*, or without ability to not sin. In other words, man is born to sin because of his Fallen nature. It is impossible that a person cannot sin. The only exception was Christ, who was born outside the slave market of sin.
15. The inability to not sin is called Moral Inability. Man is morally unable to be wholly righteous.
16. Moral Inability does not mean that man cannot do anything to conform to the Moral Law of God. He can keep the Moral Law to some extent.
17. Outwardly man may not murder someone he is angry with. However, it is possible to murder that same person, in the sight of God, by having hatred in the heart.
- *Matthew 5:21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: 22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.*
18. Man is capable of Civic Virtue. He can obey some facets of the Moral Law of God out of fear of punishment, but in his heart he does not love God.
19. Man, for his own best interest, might obey the Moral Law of God. A person might think that crime does not pay. Or, a person is running for public office. There may be some other motivation to arrest evil. However, such motives for goodness do not constitute righteousness in the sight of God. His standard is perfection. God's standard is absolute holiness.

- *Matthew 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*
 - *1 Peter 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*
20. The one motivation that is lacking in a fallen person is love for God.
- *Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*
21. The great transgression of every person is the violation of the great commandment. God has not been loved perfectly, with all of their heart.
22. The bias of man against God can be found in something as simple as reading the Bible There are many things in the Bible which the heart of man resents and rejects. Great effort is made to twist and distort the Scripture, in order to escape its judgment. It is sin that keeps the heart from God, and it is sin that keeps the mind of man from seeing the truth found in God's Word.
23. Sometimes, an "innocent" error is made when studying the Bible. A person did not know the translation was wrong, and misleading.
24. Sometimes we do not love God with all of our mind because we are lazy. We do not give ourselves to proper study. We are like Martha, when we should be more like Mary and spend time with the Lord.
- *Luke 10:41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: 42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*
25. Despite the Civic Virtues that individuals do outwardly, perfect righteousness requires that the internal spirit of the Moral Law of God be kept as well as outward conformity to the Moral Law. The heart must love God wholly, without the flesh.
26. Because man is not morally able to do what God requires, God must save man. No man has the power to come to Christ unless God does something.
- *John 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.*
27. Man cannot help himself because of his helpless and hopeless condition. He needs the Lord. The natural man is under sin. Sin is not under man. Man is under the rule of sin.
- *Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.*
28. For a person to embrace Christ, the soul must be liberated from original sin. For a person to even see the kingdom of God, let alone enter into it, they must be born again, because that which is born of the flesh is flesh.

- *John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

29. In the flesh, man can do nothing. Doing nothing is not a little something.

30. Not all theologians agree with Augustine's view of man's moral inability. Pelagianism, and Semi-Pelagianism, insist on an island of moral ability in the soul of man that can produce a righteousness that saves, in co-operation with the grace of God.

31. Nevertheless, the verdict is in. The Fall has affected man's will, emotion, and intellect. It has affected his body so that the body decays and dies.

32. In the Fall, the image of God, in the widest sense, was lost. Man still retains an image of God, in the narrow sense of the word, but the Fall marred the image of God in man in a significant way. Man lost his ability not to sin.

33. While man's humanity has not been erased, the power of man's humanity to do that which is morally good in the sight of God, apart from regeneration, has been lost.

- *Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*