

Doctrine of Sin and a Sacrificial Death

1. When Adam sinned, the penalty was death, first spiritual, and then physical.
 - *Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*
2. The spiritual death of Adam brought a disruption of fellowship with the Lord and separation from Him. The physical death of Adam brought a separation of the breath of life from the body.
 - *Genesis 3:8 And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.*
 - *Genesis 5:5 And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.*
3. Why Adam chose to sin is a great mystery. Unlike Eve, Adam was not deceived. He knew full well what would happen the moment he partook of the forbidden fruit, and yet he transgressed. Why?
4. It is possible that out of his great love for Eve, Adam chose to die for her, and with her. If this is true, then Adam reflects the Last Adam who loved the church and gave Himself for her. In Romans 5:5, Adam is said to be a figure of Christ.
 - *Adam. Genesis 3:6 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.*
 - *Christ. Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.*
5. Anticipating the ultimate sacrifice of the Lamb of God at Calvary, the LORD God provided ritual sacrifices to picture that divine mercy and justice would one day meet and be satisfied.
6. The ritual sacrifices required a substitute from the herd, the flock, or fowl. When the sacrifice was from the herd, the bullock was tied to the altar of burnt offering where the worshipper would come and identify with the animal substitute by placing a hand on the head of the animal. Then, the animal was slaughtered.
7. The killing of the substitute sacrifice was bloody and violent. The muzzle of the animal was held taunt as a knife was plunged into its throat in order to sever the carotid.

8. With every beat of the heart the blood of the animal was pumped out. With every beat of the heart the life of the sacrifice left the body. In like manner, with every beat of the heart of Jesus His life's blood was pumped out of Him, and with every beat of His heart He gave His life in payment, a ransom, for sinners.
- *Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*
 - *Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*
 - *1 Timothy 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*
9. The offerer watched as the animal became weaker and weaker and finally exhausted the life that was in the body. Hopefully, the heart of the worshipper quivered with sorrow at what his transgression cost.
10. In like manner, our sins caused the death of Christ on the Cross.
- *Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*
11. The ritual sacrifice of the substitute animal took place before the LORD at the door of the Tabernacle of the congregation.
- *Leviticus 1:5 And he shall kill the bullock before the Lord: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.*
12. When Christ was at Calvary, the Father was watching and was pleased at the obedience of His Son, even unto death. In His death at Calvary, mercy and justice met and the Father was satisfied. Calvary was God's solution to the plight of man and the plague of sin.
- *Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.*
13. The heart of every Christian must stand and wonder at God's amazing grace and the great sacrifice of Christ at Calvary.

“When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all."

Isaac Watts