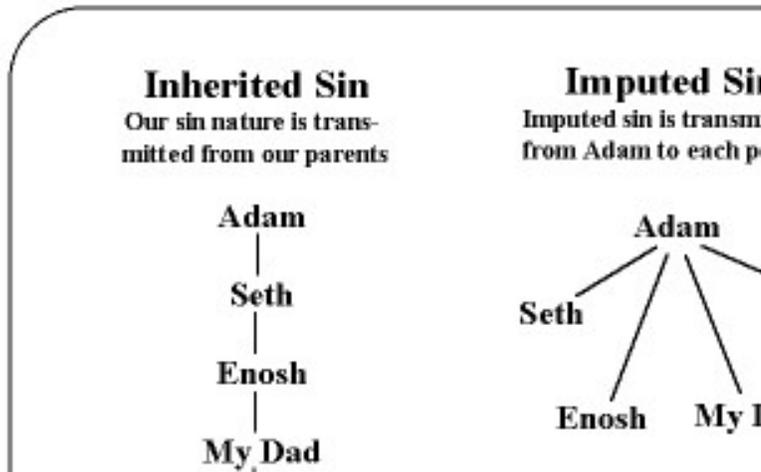


TRANSMISSION OF THE SIN NATURE

INHERITED SIN

- The question being considered: How did Adam’s sin affect the human race?
- The Bible says that we are affected by Adam’s sin in two ways:
 - Inherited Guilt/Imputed Sin – What Adam did
 - Inherited Corruption/Inherited Sin – What we are



Inherited Guilt – What Adam Did

- We are counted guilty because of Adam’s sin...All mankind sinned in Adam and, therefore, inherit his guilt

1 Corinthians 15:22 ~ *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ, all shall be made alive.*

Romans 5:12 ~ *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-*

- Notice: “just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin”
 - “sin” here does not refer to particular sins people commit everyday but the principle and nature of sin
 - Sin and death came through one man, Adam...But his sin became the cause of sin and death
- Notice: “and so death spread to all men”
 - Adam was not originally subject to death
 - Through his sin, however, death (spiritual, physical, and eternal) spread to the whole race
- Notice: “because all sinned”
 - This is past tense, not present tense
 - This is not saying that all presently sinned...Paul is not referring to the actual sins people commit daily...it is saying that all DID (past tense) sin when Adam sinned
 - The active voice indicates that all sinned when Adam sinned
 - Death came to all men not because they were sinners but because they sinned with Adam
 - This phrase is the *crux interpretum*

Romans 5:13-14 ~ for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come

- The Law did not come until the time of Moses – so there was not a strict accounting of specific sins from the time of Adam to Moses
- Nevertheless, sin was in the world...this was clear from the fact that death reigned
- Death was universal...everyone from Adam to Moses died, not just because of sinful acts, but because of their own sin nature and guilt
- Shows that God counted people guilty as a result of Adam's sin

Romans 5:15-19 ~ But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous

- Context: The main purpose is to show: 2 men, 2 acts, 2 results
- Look at the effects of Adam's sin on mankind: we died...we are under judgment...we are subject to death...we are condemned...we were made sinners
- 5 times these 5 verses refer to the universal condemnation and death for all people as a result of the one trespass of Adam
- One sin IS the cause of death of all

“When Adam sinned, God thought of all who would descend from Adam as sinners. Though we did not yet exist, God, looking into the future and knowing that we would exist, began thinking of us as those who were guilty like Adam...God counted Adams' guilt as belonging to us” (Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, 494-5)

- So all die because all sinned...AND...all die because one sinned
- The death of all is grounded in the sin of all...AND...the death of all is grounded in the sin of one
- How were we all there? How did “all sin” in Adam?
- These 4 views arise from trying to understand the phrase in Romans 5:12 ~ because all sinned

VIEWS OF THE IMPUTATION OF SIN				
Views	Romans 5:12	Adam	Humanity	
Pelagian View	People incur death when they sin after Adam's example.	Sin affected Adam alone.	No one affected by Adam's sin.	Unitari
Arminian View	All people consent to Adam's sin—then sin is imputed	Adam sinned and partially affected humanity	Depravity is not total; people received corrupt nature from Adam but not guilt or culpability.	Metho Wesle Pente Holine
Federal	Sin is imputed to	Adam alone	Depravity is total;	Presb:

1. Pelagian View

- Pelagius was a British monk who was condemned by the Council of Carthage in 418 AD and again by the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD
 - He viewed Adam as created neutral and mortal, neither holy nor sinful but with the capacity for both – his was the free choice
 - This view understands that man is neither inherently or naturally depraved but becomes so by sinning, in the exercise of his own free choice
 - Thus, Adam’s sin affected only Adam
 - This view says that man, unlike Adam, has the evil example before him – so he is free to do good or bad
- Grudem: “[Pelagius] taught that God holds man responsible only for those things that man is able to do. Since God warns us to do good, therefore, we must have the ability to do good that God commands. The Pelagian position rejects the doctrine of ‘inherited sin’...and maintains that sin consists only in separate sinful acts” (Systematic Theology, 499).
- This view man is able to take the first steps toward God in salvation

2. Arminian View

- Jacob Arminius was professor of theology at the University of Leyden (1603)
 - This view holds that man’s entire being is affected by sin and that he commits evil continually
 - This view holds that all people inherited a corrupted human nature as offspring of Adam
 - BUT, they deny that mankind is condemned because of imputed sin or guilt from Adam
 - They are condemned only because of individual sins
- Enns: “Arminians thus teach, according to Romans 5:16, that the free gift of the grace of Christ removed the condemnation and guilt from mankind so that no one is condemned eternally because of original sin or its consequences” (Moody Handbook, 495)
- Though Arminians recognize that mankind is sinful, they teach that the guilt of Adam’s sin was erased in Christ
 - Thus, the sinner is able to respond to God or cooperate with God in salvation

3. Federal/Representative View

- This view is associated with covenant theology (God made a covenant of works with Adam – rewards for obedience; judgment for disobedience)
- It says that Adam was our representative (or federal head) and therefore stood the test for his posterity – he stood in our place as our representative
- His act was considered their act and because he failed, we are guilty of sin as well (even though it was not our sin)
- This view depends heavily upon the similarity between Adam and Christ: Sin was imputed through Adam; righteousness was imputed through Christ
- This view is normally associated with Creationism (soul created by God)
- Critique:
 - Did Adam really receive a covenant of works which disobedience to would affect the whole race? (i.e. did God really ordain Adam as the representative of human race?)
 - When is sin imputed? Conception? Birth? Before foundation of world?
 - Are not men treated as sinners because that is what they are, not something they are reckoned to be?
 - The parallel with Christ is not an exact parallel (Adam’s act makes all men sinners but Christ’s act only makes those who repent righteous)

4. Augustinian/Seminal View

- This view says that man was not merely represented by Adam but was actually joined with Adam
- All were present in Adam in seminal form – the human race is numerically one in Adam
- A biological and genealogical union between Adam and his descendants exists so that when Adam sinned all sinned by actual participation
- Thus, all participated in Adam's sin and are guilty because they are guilty...Adam's act is their act
- All men are co-sinners with Adam in the fullest sense of the word
- By propagation, race has become individualized with sinful kind reproducing sinful kind (undifferentiated → [through propagation] → individuals)
- This view is normally associated with traducianism (soul comes through normal reproductive process)
- The whole human race is thus seen as numerically one in Adam but over time has become individualized with sinful kind reproducing sinful kind
- Critique: Can a person act before they exist?

Hebrews 7:9-10 ~ *And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, paid tithes, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him"*

- Perhaps the best solution is a combination of the federal and seminal views
- Bottom line: Adam's posterity can never claim to be innocent...they come into existence as sinners by nature and are thus guilty before God
- Paul's point is that all die because all sinned AND All die because one sinned
- There is a solidarity/union with Adam...SOMEHOW WE WERE ALL THERE

Inherited Corruption – What We Are

- Refers to the sin nature inherited from the parents...that sinful state into which all people are born...that inward inclination/bent toward sin

Psalm 51:5 ~ *I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.*

- Does David mean that his mother sinned in conceiving him? → No, David is so overwhelmed with his sin (adultery with Bathsheba) that he looks back to his very beginning and realizes he was sinful
- We are not being overly literal if we point out on the basis of that verse that such internal pollution begins its relation to an individual not at the first act of sin, not even at birth, but from the moment in time he or she begins to exist

Ephesians 2:1-3 ~ *And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

1. We were dead (vs. 1)

- Paul's point: every person without Christ is spiritually dead even though they are physically alive (spiritual zombies)
- Nothing we did pleased God...Sin had tainted every aspect of our being
- His point is to show that we were not just sick...we were Dead!

[We] lay buried in a grave of trespasses, and wrapped up in a winding sheet of sins, as insensible of [our] situation as a corpse, and as completely cut off from all intercourse or communion with God and holy beings, as a corpse is from intercourse with the living; nor did [we] any more desire to rise from this state, than a corpse desires to rise from the slumbers of the grave.

Edward Payson, sermon "The Dead in Sin Made Alive"

2. We were disobedient (vs. 2)

- Paul tells us how dead we were...our life is characterized by disobedience
- What characterized the world characterized us as well...we felt right at home in this wicked world
- We also lived according to the prince of the power of the air (Satan)
- We were subject to Satan's influence...We responded naturally to his leading...We were on the same spiritual wavelength as Satan...We shared his sinful nature and lived in the same sphere of rebellion against God as he did...Satan was our master
- Before Christ, we lived in conscious and active rebellion and opposition against God

3. We were depraved (vs. 3)

- "Depraved" means that *every part* of man's being and nature has been affected by sin: mouth, mind, eyes, body, heart
- We indulged our fleshly desires and lusts
- We were controlled by the strong lusts, desires of our flesh and our mind
- Our mind conceived of the sin...Our flesh passionately desired to carry it out

The mind of man has been so completely estranged from God's righteousness that it conceives, desires, and undertakes, only that which is impious, perverted, foul, impure, and infamous. The heart is so steeped in the poison of sin that it can breathe out nothing but a loathsome stench. ~ Calvin

4. We were doomed (vs. 3)

- Paul says that our very nature made us children of wrath
- Interestingly, the word for children "*tekna*" suggests a close, intimate relationship to one's parents
- What Paul is saying is that before we came to Christ we had a close relationship, not with God, but with His wrath!
- Death, and disobedience and depravity led us to being under the wrath of God

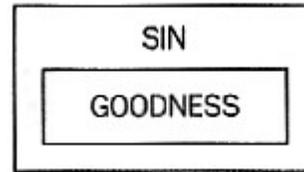
Romans 7:18 ~ *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not*

- In short, the nature of every human being has been damaged by what Eve and Adam did in Eden.
- Which statement is correct and why? → I sin therefore I am a sinner OR I am a sinner therefore I sin

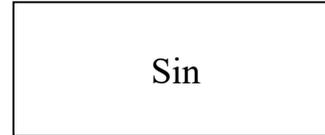
TOTAL DEPRAVITY

- Is Man basically good or evil? → Without Christ, all men are totally evil & wicked
- Definition of total depravity: the fall has rendered all people corrupt such that they are unable to trust God unless He changes their hearts so they believe
- This does not mean that every person is as wicked as they could be (certainly man could do more evil acts than they do)
- Nor does this mean that an unsaved man cannot do good deeds
Matthew 7:11 ~ *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children...*
- Nor does this mean that the image of God in unsaved man is destroyed

Humanistic View of Man



Biblical View of Man



The Depravity is Universal

- Depravity is true of all men past, present, future... none are exempt

1 Kings 8:46 ~ *When they sin against Thee (for there is no man who does not sin)*

Romans 3:9-10 ~ *What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; as it is written, 'There is none righteous, not even one'*

Romans 3:23 ~ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

Romans 11:32 ~ *For God has shut up all in disobedience*

The Depravity is Total

- It extends to every part of the person... No part has escaped the impact of sin

Heart

Genesis 6:5 ~ *Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*

Jeremiah 17:9 ~ *The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?*

Mark 7:21 ~ *For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts*

Mind

Titus 1:15 ~ *To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.*

Ephesians 4:17 ~ *This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,*

1 Corinthians 2:14 ~ *But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised*

2 Corinthians 4:4 ~ *in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God*

Colossians 1:21 ~ *And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds*

Will

Romans 1:32 ~ and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them

Romans 3:11 ~ There is none who seeks for God

Ephesians 4:18 ~ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

- So do men have a free will?

The Depravity is Comprehensive

- Everything unregenerate man does is sin!

1 Corinthians 10:31 ~ Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God

- That means that doing things that are not for God's glory is sin

Romans 14:23 ~ But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin

- Everything not done from faith in Christ for the glory of God is sin!
- That means that everything we did before coming to Christ was sin
- Every good thing we did...every kind thing we did for someone else was ultimately sin

Hebrews 11:6 ~ And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him

- Anything not done from faith is impossible to please God...Everything that we did without a Savior was sin
- And until we were made alive by Christ, nothing we did had any spiritual benefit...Everything we did came from the flesh

Romans 8:6-8 ~ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God"

- Those who in the flesh (i.e. apart from Christ) CANNOT please God
- Without a Savior, everything we did was insubordination against God and displeasing to God...Unsaved man cannot even do one thing that pleases God
- It was all sin!