

Doctrine of Sin – Hamartiology

Hamartiology: from Greek *hamartia*, “missing the mark;” and *logia*, “the study of.”

Original Sin: Sin is inherited from our original ancestors who rebelled against God, and so is a pervasive plague for all humanity over all time.

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Psalm 51:5

Pelagianism: Adam only “set a bad example” for his descendants (with Jesus, consequently, “setting the good example”), and original sin did not taint subsequent human nature, so that people are still capable of choosing good and evil without help from God. (A heresy, but common.)

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What is sin?

Anything in a creature which does not express, or which is contrary to, the holy character of the Creator.

“Sin” (with a capital) is our spirit of rebellion against God, placed in us as part of our humanity, inherited (or “imputed”) from our human ancestors. (The “plague of Sin.”)

But, “sins” are the acts we commit which reflect the Sinful nature that is in us.

We are not Sinners because we commit sins; we commit sins because we are Sinners (“Original Sin”).

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Psalm 51:5

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Sin began with the Pride and Fall of Satan

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! ¹³ You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. ¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." ¹⁵ But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

Isaiah 14:12-15

And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home — these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Jude 6-7

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;

2 Peter 2:4-5

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In Adam, we ALL fell from grace (“Original Sin”).

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— ¹³ for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:12-19

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In Adam, we ALL fell from grace (“Original Sin”).

We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. ¹⁰ As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹
there is no one who understands, no one who seeks
God. ¹² All have turned away, they have together
become worthless; there is no one who does good,
not even one." Romans 3:9-12

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of
God... Romans 3:23-24