

# SIN

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## FAITH OR SIN?

Faith or Sin? Life or Death?  
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 Heb 12:2 – faith: looking away unto Jesus

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"At the beginning of our Christian life we are concerned with our doing, not with our being; we are distressed rather by what we have done than by what we are. We think that if only we could rectify certain things we should be good Christians, and we set out therefore to change our actions. But the result is not what we expected. We discover to our dismay that it is something more than just a case of trouble on the outside – that there is in fact more serious trouble inside. We try to please the Lord, but find something within that does not want to please Him." (Nee – *The Normal Christian Life*)

# SIN

Romans 5:12 – Through one man sin entered.

3. The origin of sin.

- **Genesis 3**
  1. This describes an historical event.
    - If Adam was not a real person who brought sin into the human race at one point in history, then there is no point to Jesus' redeeming humanity at another point in history.
  2. Adam was a real person!
    - Luke 3:38 – "the son of Adam"
    - Matthew 19:3-5 – "Have you not read...?"
    - John 5:46,47 – "how will you believe My words?"
    - 1 Corinthians 15:21,22 – "by a man came death"

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3. The origin of sin.

- **Genesis 3**
  3. The tree was a test of obedience:
    - Will you trust that I am telling you the truth and thus obey Me?
    - God's purpose was to give Adam and Eve the knowledge of good and evil through obedience (revealed truth).
    - They came to knowledge *through* disobedience (autonomous reasoning).
  - Revelation over Reason or Reason over Revelation?
    - "has God said?"
    - **Genesis 3** and **Matthew 4**
- 4. The same temptation we face today – did God really say???

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4. The oneness of humanity.

- **Romans 3:23** – all???
- **Romans 15:17** – by the transgression of the one...???
- **1 Corinthians 15:21,22** – "For as in Adam all die"
- If the answer to the sin nature is being found "in Christ," then the sin nature must have been a direct result of being found "in Adam"
- "In Adam"
- **Hebrews 7:1-10** – "he was still in the loins of his father."
- Where would you be if your grandfather died before your dad was conceived?

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4. The oneness of humanity.

- Because the entire human race was "in Adam" when he sinned, we all sinned "in Adam"
- We are sinners because of constitution rather than action.
  - **Psalm 51:5** – at conception a person possesses a sin nature.
  - **Psalm 58:3** – the sin nature is present "from birth"
  - **John 3:6** – of the flesh is flesh, of the Spirit is spirit.
- The term "sin nature" is the inherent, innate, indwelling sinfulness possessed by all of Adam's descendants.
- This is why, biblically speaking, there are two people: Adam and Christ. (**1 Cor. 15:45-47**)

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**Romans 5:12** – Through one man sin entered.

5. The totality of sin.

| Views  | Romans 5:12  | Adam   | Humanity  | Modern Adherents   |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Pelagian View</b><br>(Pelagian 354-412; Bish)     | People incur death when they sin after Adam's example. | Sin affected Adam alone.                     | No one but Adam affected by his sin.  | Unitarians   |
| <b>Arminian View</b><br>(Jacobus Arminius 1560-1609) | 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 | Methodists<br>Wesleyans<br>Pentecostals<br>Holiness groups |
| <b>Federal View</b><br>(Johnnes Cocceius 1603-1669)  | Sin is imputed to humanity because of Adam's sin.      | Adam alone sinned but human race affected.   | Depravity is total; sin and guilt are imputed.  | Presbyterians and others holding to Covenant theology.     |
| <b>Augustinian View</b><br>(Augustine 354-430)       | Sin is imputed to humanity because of Adam's sin.      | Humanity sinned in Adam.                     | Depravity is total; sin and guilt are imputed.  | Reformers and later Calvinists.                            |

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- **1 Thessalonians 5:23**