

## THE DOCTRINE OF SIN

- According to Romans 5:12, how did sin enter the world?

## ORIGINAL SIN

Theologians also call it the sinful nature, depravity, or the flesh.

- When Adam sinned, it affected the whole human race. What was one of the results according to Psalm 51:5?
- How does Genesis 6:5 describe the result?
- How does God describe mankind's condition after the fall in Genesis 8:21?
- According to Psalm 58:3, what is the result?
- How does Jeremiah 17:9 describe the human heart?

The Greek word used in the New Testament is *sarx*, which literally means "flesh." This should not be interpreted as meaning that our physical bodies are evil. It refers to the depravity that affects our whole being, body and soul. To avoid this confusion the NIV translates it "sinful nature."

- According to Romans 7:5, what did the sinful nature do?
- What does Paul call original sin in vv. 17 and 20?
- How does Paul describe the sinful nature in v. 18?

- What did the sinful nature do to Paul according to v. 25?
- How did Paul's relationship to the sinful nature change when he came to Christ (Romans 8:3-4)?
- How does vv. 5-8 describe the person who is controlled by the sinful nature?
- How is the Christian different from the non-Christian (vv. 8-9)?
- What does Romans 13:14 command us not to do?
- What does Galatians 5:13 tell us not to do?
- What does Galatians 5:17 tell us about the sinful nature?
- What warning does Galatians 6:8 give us?
- According to 2 Peter 2:10, what does the sinful nature produce?
- According to 2 Peter 2:18, what does it produce?

## **ACTS OF SIN**

The Bible indicates that all the sins that we commit are produced when we yield to the desires of our sinful natures.

- How does Romans 5:12 allude to the relationship between our sins and our sinful nature?
- According to Matthew 15:18-19, where do our sins come from?
- How does Ephesians 2:3 describe our sins?
- According to Galatians 5:19-21, what kinds of sins are produced when we yield to the control of our sinful natures?
- What does Hebrews 4:15 reveal about the relationship between temptation and sin?
- According to James 1:14-15, what are the steps that lead to sin?
- Compare this to Genesis 2:15-17 and 3:1-6. What was the nature of the first sin?

### **STEPS THAT LEAD TO EVE'S SIN:**

1. God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
2. The serpent drew Eve's attention to this forbidden fruit.
3. It began to appeal to her in three ways (v. 6)
  - It looked good to eat (it appealed to her physical appetite)
  - She liked its appearance (it appealed to her eyes)
  - She desired the wisdom the serpent said that it would give her  
(It appealed to her ambition)
4. She made a deliberate choice to disobey God's command. Up until that moment, she could have turned away and not been guilty of sin. The moment she made the decision to eat the fruit, it became sin (even before she actually took the first bite). At that point even if something had occurred that prevented her from actually eating the fruit, she still would have been guilty.

**These are the same steps we take when we sin.**

- What does James 1:13 tell us about sin?
- Based on Romans 3:20, how would you define sin?
- How is sin defined in 1 John 3:4? What do you think this means?
- What does James 4:17 tell us about sin?

There are several Hebrew words used for sin that are used in the Old Testament:

*Chattath* literally means to “miss the mark.” It is used more than 500 times and is usually translated “sin.”

*Aven* appears 220 times and means to “miss the way.” It is usually translated “iniquity.”

*Pesha* is usually translated “transgression.” Used 171 times, it describes rebellion—a deliberate crossing of the line.

There are also several Greek words for sin, which are used in the New Testament:

*Hamartia* means to “miss the mark.” It is used 270 times.

*Adikia* means “unrighteousness” and appears 42 times.

*Anomos*, “lawlessness,” is used 8 times.

Its cognate, *anomia*, refers to the breaking of God’s law in its wider sense, rather than just the violating of the Jewish law. It appears 14 times.

In contrast, *parabasis* refers to the breaking of a particular law and is usually connected with the Jewish laws in particular.

- What does 1 Kings 8:46 tell us?

- What does Ecclesiastes 7:20 tell us about the human race?
- How does Romans 3:9-18 emphasize that sin is universal?
- What does Romans 3:23 tell us about mankind?
- What does 1 John 1:8-10 say about a person who claims to have never sinned?
- What does Romans 6:23 tell us about sin?
- Why is this doctrine important?