

I. The Transmitted Sin Nature

As every effect must have its cause –

There is a cause or reason for the fact that personal sin is universal. That cause is the sin nature (a reality which originated with Adam and has been transmitted from Adam to his entire race).

Thoughts Concerning the Above:

1. The effect of the first sin (Personal sin) upon “unfallen Adam” was a conversion downward.
As an immediate result of that first sin, Adam became a different kind of being from that which God created. Adam was now “fallen Adam”.
2. The law of generation “after its kind”, saw to it that reproduction produced further living beings “after its kind”.
3. Adam’s experience was unique. Adam became a sinner by sinning; every other member of the race commits personal sin because he is a sinner.
 - a. In the case of Adam – personal sin caused the sin nature.
 - b. In the case of all others – the sin nature causes all other personal sins.
4. Where the root is evil, the fruit will be also.
 - a. Any system which deals with sin’s manifestations and not with the cause (religion) is doomed to failure
 - b. Treating symptoms without correcting the cause...
 - c. Religion knows nothing of sin (singular); it knows only sins (plural).
 - d. The problem cannot be cured by focusing on a succession of sinful acts, rather than the principle of evil.
5. As demonstrated last week – since the sin of Adam merited the penalty of death, death in its three forms was inserted into God’s good creation.
 - a. As created, man was as immortal as the angels.
 - b. As now found, man is “dead in sin”.
 - c. Physical death is related to imputed sin.
Spiritual death is related to the transmitted sin nature, which leaves man with the incapacity to do good, Rom 3:9-18.
To be spiritually dead is not to have ceased to live, but rather to live life in complete separation from God.
Eph 2:1-3; 4:18-19

CONCLUSION:

Spiritual death and the sin nature are life in separation from:

1. The knowledge of God
2. The life of God
3. The power of God
4. The benefits of God's grace
5. Spiritual death is a state and fallen man lives in that state.

REMEMBER:

1. The unsaved are not lost because of their personal sins.
Man is lost by nature – born a lost soul, with no hope apart from the redeeming blood of Christ.
2. God declared man, along with all His creation, as “very good”
Gen 1:31, in the beginning.
Fifteen hundred years later God said of man “Gen 6:5”.
More than two thousand years later He declares Rom 3:9-18.
The contrast declares the reality.

II. The Fact Of the Sin Nature (A Perversion of God's Original Creation; An Abnormal Thing)

Original sin may be considered with respect to:

A. The understanding

It is Blindness:

Isa 42:5-8 esp vs 7;

Lk 4:16-19

Rev 3:17

1 Jn 2:9-11

2Cor 4:4

It is Darkness:

Prov 4:19

Isa 60:2

Eph 5:11

Col 1:13

1 Thes 5:4

It is Voluntary Ignorance:

2 Pet 3:5 (KJV)

Rom 1:18, 21-23, 28, 32

Divine Enlightenment is God's Answer
2 Cor 4:6

B. The Conscience

Sin blinds and darkens the understanding by destroying the conscience with its relation to divine things.

1 Tim 4:1-2; Titus 1:15

Our conscience must be cleansed.

Heb 9:14

God transforms our conscience into a "good conscience".

Heb 13:18; 1 Pet 3:15-16, 21; 1 Tim 1:5,19

C. The Will

1. Mind set on the flesh – Rom 8:6; Jas 4:4

A rebellion against God – Isa 1:2-3; 30:9

2. Hardness of heart – Acts 19:8-9; Heb 3:8, 15; 4:7

3. Unwilling – Jn 5:39-40; Rev 2:21

4. Obstinate (stiff-necked) – Rom 10:20-21; Acts 7:51

5. Bondage – Rom 6:20; 7:8-11,14,18,23

III. Passages Which Deal With The State of Fallen Man

Gen 8: 21 "the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth"

Ps 14:2-3 "They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one."

Ps 51:5 "I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me."

Jer 17:9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick."

Jn 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh, is flesh..."

Note: Jn 3:5 with Jn 1:12-13
Titus 3: 5-7
1 Pet 1:3, 23

1 Cor 7:14 the unbelieving (husband or wife) apart from a believing mate produces unclean children; (unclean children are the product of unclean parents – “after their kind”)

Eph 2:3 “by nature children of wrath”

Gal 5:17-21 “the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit... these are in opposition to one another... the deeds of the flesh are evident...”

ADDITIONAL PASSAGES TO CONSIDER

Old Testament

Gen 6:5
Job 15:15-16
Ps 130:3; 143:2
Eccl 7:20; 9:3
Isa 64:6
Jer 13:23

New Testament

Matt 7:11 (you then, being evil)
Matt 12:34; 15:19; 16:23
Lk 1:79 (sit in darkness and the shadow of death)
Jn 3:18-19 (men loved the darkness...their deeds were evil...does evil, hates the light...does not come to the light)
1 Cor 2:14; 3:3
Col 1:13 (domain of darkness)
Col 1:21 (hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds)
Col 2:13 (dead)
Col 3:5-7 (immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed,...in them you also walked)

2 Tim 3:2-5

1 Pet 4:2 (live...for the lusts of men)

1 Jn 1:8; 2:15-17; 5:19

II. The Remedy For the Sin Nature

A. God judged the sin nature by Christ on the cross

Rom 8:1-4

B. He gives the gift of the indwelling Spirit who is able to give victory over all sin.

Gal 5:16-25

FINAL NOTE

The above study is titled "Total Depravity".

This doctrine does not imply that there is no good to be seen in men, as men observe each other; it rather teaches that, because of man's fallen nature, God sees nothing in man which makes man acceptable to God.

In man's natural state, God can only treat man as an object of His grace.