

The Doctrine of Sin

I. Why We Must Preach and Teach the Doctrine of Sin

- A. To do otherwise would be biblically unfaithful
- B. To do otherwise would rob the gospel of its meaning
- C. To do otherwise would distract us from being Christ-centered
- D. To do otherwise would be pastorally irresponsible
- E. To do otherwise would fail to cultivate Christian humility
- F. To do otherwise would be contrary to reality

II. The Universal Problem of Sin

- A. Romans 3:9-18, 23
- B. 1 John 1:8, 10
- C. 1 Timothy 1:15

III. The Definition of Sin

- A. “[Sin is] the fundamental unbelief, distrust, and rejection of God and human displacement of God as the center of reality.” – *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*
- B. “Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature.” – Wayen Grudem, *Systematic Theology*
- C. It is essential to define sin in relation to God
- D. It is essential to define sin in a more holistic way than just acts committed

IV. The Origin of Sin

- A. God cannot be regarded as the author of sin.
 - 1) God did not sin, and God is not to be blamed for sin.
 - 2) But God was not surprised by the entrance of sin into the world he created; nor did it overpower him or challenge him.
- B. Sin originated in the angelic world.
- C. Sin entered the human race with the fall of Adam.
 - 1) The nature of Adam's sin
 - a) Brought on by the serpent's temptation (Gen. 3:1-6)
 - b) Willful, voluntary act (Gen. 3:6)
 - c) Rebellion, disobedience, and unbelief (Gen. 2:15-17, 3:1-6)
 - 2) The results of Adam's sin
 - a) The complete and utter depravity of human nature (Gen. 6:5; Ps. 14:3; Jer. 17:9; Rom 7:18)
 - b) The loss of communion with God or separation/alienation from God (Eph. 2:1-3, 12, 4:18; Col. 1:21)
 - c) The consciousness of pollution/corruption (Gen. 3:7) and the consciousness of guilt before God (Gen. 3:8)

- d) The entrance of both spiritual and physical death (Gen. 3:19; Rom. 5:12, 6:23)
- e) The expulsion from the Garden (Gen. 3:22-24)
- 3) The effects of Adam's sin on us
 - a) Pollution/Corruption – we inherit a sinful nature from Adam (Ps. 51:5, 58:3; Eph. 2:3)
 - b) Guilt – we inherit a guilty standing before God from Adam (Romans 5:12-21)

V. The Indwelling Sin in the Life of the Believer

- A. Recognizing the presence of indwelling sin (Rom. 7:15-25; Gal. 5:17)
- B. Realizing the need to mortify indwelling sin (Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:24; Eph. 4:20-24; Col. 3:5; 1 Pet. 2:11)
- C. What happens when a Christian sins?
 - 1) Our legal standing before God is unchanged (Rom. 8:1; 1 John 2:1-2)
 - 2) But our fellowship with God is disrupted, and our Christian life is damaged

VI. The Punishment of Sin

- A. The primary purpose of punishment
 - 1) To vindicate divine righteousness/justice
 - 2) Rom. 3:21-26
- B. The actual penalty of sin
 - 1) Spiritual death
 - 2) Sufferings of life
 - 3) Physical death
 - 4) Eternal death

VII. The Glorious Truth of the Gospel