

Doctrine of Sin

I. Doctrine of Sin

A. The Nature of Sin

1. Sensuality
2. Selfishness
3. Displacement of God
4. Disobedience of the will of God

B. Sin is a Specific Evil

1. Mankind has a conscious awareness of sin
2. Man is aware that sin includes both guilt and pollution and disobedience towards God.
3. Some scripture refs that teach that sin is a choice made by man are as follows. Gen 3:1-6, Isa 48:8, Rom 1:18-32, 1 John 3:4.

C. Sin has relation to Law

1. As moral and rational beings we are of necessity subject to the law of right.
2. The law is that which binds the conscience
3. Violation of the law of God leads to death
4. *Romans 6:23- For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

D. Sin is related to the Law of God

1. The law is something outside of ourselves and over us that is entirely independent of our will or reason.

E. Sin is not confined to the Acts of the Will

1. Sin is not an agency, activity or act, but is a condition of the mind
2. Man is born in sin and His nature is sinful since the beginning. Some scripture teachings on this are: *Psa 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
1 Corinthians 15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

F. Sin includes Guilt and Pollution

1. These two elements of sin are revealed in the conscience of every sinner.
4. The reality of man's guilt and pollution cannot be perceived by self-knowledge, but only by a moving of the Holy Spirit. One scripture ref that teaches this is John 16:8: *And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

Doctrinal Statement

- Sin according to a biblical theology is not only an act of wrongdoing against God, but a state of alienation from God.
 - I reject Pelagianism and believe that man was born in sin and cannot earn his or her salvation by any human effort
 - I reject the doctrine of the *Pre-existence of Souls*, because I do not believe that man sinned as spirits before man came into being by the act of God. No such scripture evidence supports such a theology

I believe that sin is a specific evil and that mankind has a conscious awareness of sin. I believe that man is aware that sin includes both guilt and pollution and disobedience towards God.

Isa 48:8- Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb.

1 John 3:4- Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

I believe that sin has relation to the Law of God. The law is that which binds the conscious. Violation of the law of God leads to eternal death and separation from God in Hell.

Romans 6:23- For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:12- Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Romans 5:19- For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Sin is not confined to the Acts of the Will. I believe that sin is a nature that all mankind has and cannot rid away in this life. I believe that Sin is not an agency, activity or act, but is a condition of the mind and that mind is naturally disobedient towards the will and way of God. I believe that only through God's Grace can man be free of the penalty of death awaiting him.

Psa 51:5-Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

1 Corinthians 15:2- For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

I believe that the sinful nature of man includes both Guilt and Pollution and that this cannot be perceived or identified by man, but only by the moving power of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:7-8 (NIV)- But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:

I believe that man can be freed from sin by God's grace, and man cannot be freed by no other means or works. I believe that only through Jesus Christ can man obtain salvation from sin.

John 14:6 (NIV)- Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Bibliography: Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, 180-192, Erickson, Chapters 27, 28, Berkouwer, *Sin*, 323-45, Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, 227-36, NDT, (Sin), Elwell, EDT 1103-1107