

#23 THE DOCTRINE OF ORIGINAL SIN

30 PRACTICAL DOCTRINES YOU NEED TO KNOW | DR. RANDY WHITE

WHY IS THIS A “PRACTICAL DOCTRINE?”

- Few things are more practical than fully and accurately seeing yourself spiritually.
- If you are continually told some falsehood about you, you may begin to believe it. This leads to sad consequences, regardless of the falsehood

WHAT THE DOCTRINE OF ORIGINAL SIN IS NOT

- The doctrine is *not* about the fact that *everyone sins* (Rom. 3:23).
- The doctrine is *not* that people do not *need a savior* (Acts 4:12).
- The doctrine is *not* that people can *save themselves* (Eph. 2:8-9)

WHAT IS THE DOCTRINE OF ORIGINAL SIN?

- It is the man-made doctrine that says that every man, woman, boy and girl carries the *guilt* of Adam’s sin.
 - The doctrine holds that we are not simply experiencing the *consequences* of his sin, but that we are actually *guilty* of his sin because his sin was *imputed* on all of us.
- It is the man-made doctrine that says that humanity has lost its original righteousness.
 - The question is: are we born with a different nature than Adam, or simply born into a life that is separated from God?
 - Adam lost fellowship with God, and Cain was born already separated from that fellowship.
- It is the man-made doctrine that says that humanity now has a “corruption of the whole nature” (Hodge)
 - The Westminster Confession says that we are “wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of soul and body” and that “we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil.”

WHAT THEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE IS GIVEN FOR THE DOCTRINE?

- Because everyone has sinned, original sin must be true.
 - Fact: everyone has sinned, but this does not prove that man is wholly incapable of coming to God.
 - Fact: universality of one behavior does not equate to proof of cause.
- Because no man seeks God but is controlled by sin, original sin must be true.
 - Fact: the doctrine of original sin teaches that no man seeks (nor can seek) after God.

- Fact: those who hold to original sin must (of necessity) maintain that personal, individual election is entirely necessary for salvation (for no one would come to God due to original sin).
- Because of the early manifestation of sin, original sin must be true.
 - Fact: The early manifestation of sin is highlighted, but not the early manifestation of the love of God, which is an equally true fact.
- Charles Hodge: “*These three undeniable facts, the universality of sin among men, its controlling power, and its early manifestation, are clear proof of the corruption of our common nature. It is a principle of judgment universally recognized and acted upon, that a course of action in any creature, rational or irrational, which is universal and controlling, and which is adopted uniformly from the beginning of its being, determines and reveals its nature.*” Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 2. 237–238.

WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES SAY?

- Consider *righteous* Abel
 - 1 John 3:11-12
 - Matthew 23:35
 - Hebrews 11:4
- Consider Jesus Christ –
 - Hebrews 2:14 & 17

WAIT – AREN’T WE ALL SINNERS?

- The Biblical text never uses the noun *sinner* to refer to humanity.
- The Biblical text always uses the adjective *sinful* to refer to humanity.
- When we recognize that we are *sinful* then we can freely come to a *Savior*. But if we are *sinner*s who are “wholly defiled in all the faculties,” then there is no hope for us save the prayer of personal election by God.
- The Bible is filled with invitations for *sinful people* to come to Jesus for salvation.

CONCLUSION

- The doctrine of original sin is a man-made doctrine that came into the church with Augustine and has been doggedly held by Catholics, Protestants, and Evangelicals of all varieties.
- It is a doctrine that *should be abandoned* because it requires the creation of a monstrous God with a monstrous plan.
- It is a doctrine that can be abandoned without developing heresies of salvation by works.

