

## Sin and Self-Esteem

Youth Breakaway 2008

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### What is sin?

- The word "sin" comes from the Greek word *amartia* which means "to miss the mark"
- The idea is of an arrow missing the mark on a target
- Whenever we do that which is contrary to God's will for us, we sin.
- Further, when we fail to do that which is God's will for us, we sin.

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### The First Sin

- Isa 14:12 How you have fallen from heaven,
- O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! 13 You said in your heart,
- "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. 14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

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● Ezek 28:12 "You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you...Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. 14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.

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● 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you...and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. 17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

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### The Fall

● Gen 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

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● Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"  
● 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

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● 4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."  
● 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

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● 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

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● 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." 11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

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● Gen 3:14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,  
 ● "Cursed are you above all the livestock  
 ● and all the wild animals!  
 ● 16 To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children.  
 ● To Adam he said, "Cursed is the ground because of you; It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food...

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**If God created everything, did He create sin?**  
 ● No. Bible scholars do not believe that God created sin. God did create men and women in His image. This means a number of things, but primarily it means that He created us with a *free will*. God did not want to create robots that were forced to love Him. Love is not really love unless it is voluntary.  
 ● When you give someone choice, however, you allow the possibility that they will not choose the right path – they might choose to sin.

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## Original Sin

- The Bible teaches that because of Adam's sin, all humanity is born with a sinful nature, and the tendency to sin.
- As we get older, we sin while knowing that we should not.
- Jesus died on the cross and rose again so that our sins could be forgiven, and so that we could be given power to resist temptation by the Holy Spirit.

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● Rom. 5:12 You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we're in— first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. That sin disturbed relations with God in everything and everyone,<sup>15</sup> Yet the rescuing gift is not exactly parallel to the death-dealing sin. If one man's sin put crowds of people at the dead-end abyss of separation from God, just think what God's gift poured through one man, Jesus Christ, will do! There's no comparison between that death-dealing sin and this generous, life-giving gift.

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● The verdict on that one sin was the death sentence; the verdict on the many sins that followed was this wonderful life sentence. If death got the upper hand through one man's wrongdoing, can you imagine the breathtaking recovery life makes, sovereign life, in those who grasp with both hands this wildly extravagant life-gift, this grand setting-everything-right, that the one man Jesus Christ provides?

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- 18-19 Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One man said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man said yes to God and put many in the right.

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### What happens to babies and children who die?

- If we need to accept Jesus' payment for our sin to be saved, and spend eternity in Heaven, what about those who die before they're old enough to realize they need a Saviour?
- All of us are born with a sinful nature because of Adam's sin. The penalty for this is physical death.
- When we get older, reject Christ and chose to sin, we incur guilt. The penalty for this is spiritual death. Children who are not old enough to accept Christ are not responsible for their own sins, and so do not incur guilt. When they die, the price for Adam's sin is paid.

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### Why do we still struggle with sin as Christians?

- The Bible teaches that those who do not follow Christ will naturally sin, because they do not have the Holy Spirit living within, helping them to live a holy life.
- Christians who have the Holy Spirit still struggle with sin, however, because the Bible teaches that our old sinful nature does not disappear when we become a Christian; we must resist it daily.

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● Rom. 7:17 I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time. It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebels, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

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● 24 I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

● 25 The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.

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● Rom 8:12-13

● 12 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation-but it is not to live according to the sinful nature. 13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live...

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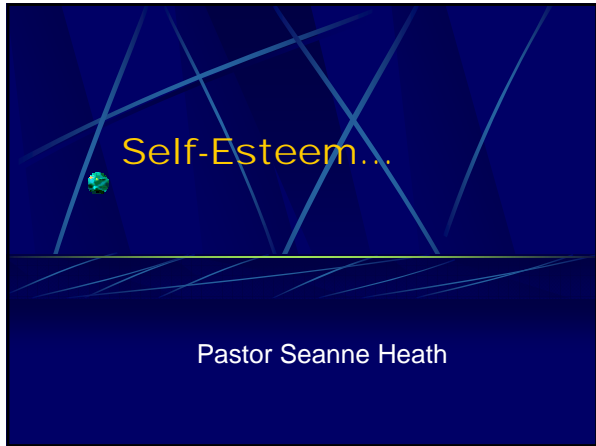
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