

**Discipleship:  
An  
Introduction to  
Systematic Theology and  
Apologetics**

**Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation**

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# Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

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# The Fall – Original Sin

And the LORD (*Yahweh* in Hebrew) God (*Elohim* in Hebrew) commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:16 – 17)

*Yahweh* is the name of God (I AM WHO I AM) revealed to Moses as four Hebrew consonants (YHWH) called the tetragrammaton. It would be translated as Jehovah in the Vulgate.

- After the Babylonian Exile, Jews ceased to use *Yahweh* for two reasons.
  1. As Judaism spread to other countries, *Elohim*, meaning "God," tended to replace *Yahweh* to demonstrate Israel's God was sovereign over all others.
  2. *Yahweh* was increasingly regarded as too sacred to be uttered; it was thus replaced vocally in the synagogue ritual by the Hebrew word *Adonai* ("My Lord"), which was translated as *Kyrios* ("Lord") in the Septuagint. In the NT *Kyrios* is used about 740 times and usually refers to Jesus.

# The Fall – Original Sin

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Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD (*Yahweh*) God (*Elohim*) had made. He said to the woman, "Did God (*Elohim*) actually say, 'You shall not eat of **any** tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God (*Elohim*) said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the **midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it**, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God (*Elohim*) knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God (*Elohim*), knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. (Genesis 3:1 – 7)

# The Fall – Original Sin

- Original Sin does not primarily refer to the first sin by Adam and Eve, but rather to result of the first sin – the corruption of the human race namely, that everyone (except Jesus) is born a sinner in God's eyes.
- The serpent is an incarnation of Satan.
- Satan subverts marriage bypassing Adam and tempting Eve.
- Satan emphasizes God's prohibition not his provision. Satan casts doubt on God's sincerity and motives.
- The essence of sin is a failure to trust God and an assertion of our autonomy. In sin we fail to do what God commands and do what God forbids.

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ... Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (Romans 7:18, 24 – 25)

# The Fall – Original Sin

- **The Catechism of the Roman Catholic Church says:**
- By his sin Adam, as the first man, lost the original holiness and justice he had received from God, not only for himself but for all humans.
- Adam and Eve transmitted to their descendants human nature wounded by their own first sin and hence deprived of original holiness and justice; this deprivation is called "original sin".
- As a result of original sin, human nature is weakened in its powers, subject to ignorance, suffering and the domination of death, and inclined to sin.
- **Eastern Orthodoxy teaches that sin originates with the Devil,** (Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. (1 John 3:8) **They acknowledge that the introduction of ancestral sin into the human race affected the subsequent environment for humanity. However, they never accepted Augustine of Hippo's notions of original sin and hereditary guilt.**

# The Fall – Original Sin

- Protestants, Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh-day Adventists follow the teaching of Augustine on Original Sin.
- The Mormon Church Articles of Faith state: We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.
- Liberal Quakers believe in the doctrine of inward light (that of God is in everyone). Rather than being burdened by original sin, human beings are inherently good. All people will eventually be saved/reconciled with God.
- Conservative and Evangelical Quakers believe in the doctrine of inward light, but interpret it in a manner consistent with original sin, namely, that people may or may not listen to the voice of God within them and be saved. People who do not listen are not saved.
- Most modern Jews reject Original Sin though some Orthodox Jews teach that Original Sin was due to Adam's yielding to temptation in eating of the forbidden fruit and has been inherited by his descendants.
- Islam does not have a doctrine of Original Sin.

# The Fall – What is inherited sin?

## 1. We are counted guilty because of Adam's sin.

- Romans 5:12-21 is not about the sins we commit every day because it compares Adam and Jesus.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—**for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.\*** (Romans 5:12 – 14)

**\*people's sins were not counted as infractions of the law yet they died because they had inherited Adam's sin.** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

## The Fall – What is inherited sin? (Romans 5:15-19)

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if **many died** through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for **many**. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for **all men\***, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for **all men\***. For as by the **one man's disobedience the many\*** were made sinners, so by the **one man's obedience the many\*** will be made righteous.

**\*Refers to Adam's descendants namely every human but Jesus**

**\*Refers to all Christians namely all for whom Jesus is their head**

## The Fall – What is inherited sin?

Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:20-21)

- **Sin vs justification**

for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a **propitiation\*** by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that **he might be just** and the justifier of the one who has **faith in Jesus**. (Romans 3:23-26)

\* **satisfaction of God's wrath** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10)