

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Redemption:

The Heights Church September 25, 2016

The Fall – What is sin?

- **The history of the human race in Scripture is primarily the story of sin and rebellion against God and God's plan of redemption.**
- ***Sin is any want of conformity to, or transgression of, the law of God.*** (Q&A 14 Westminster Shorter Catechism)
- ***Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature.*** (Wayne Grudem)

The Fall – What is sin?

- **We know from experience that sin is harmful to us and often brings pain and other unpleasant consequences to us and others.**
- **BUT by defining sin as failure to conform to the moral law we are saying it is absolutely wrong. Sin is directly opposite all that is good in the character of God. Therefore, God must hate sin and just as he eternally delights in himself, he must eternally hate sin and ultimately pour out his wrath against unredeemed sinners.**

The Fall – What is sin?

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; (Matthew 5:21-22)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:27-28)

Notice: Before redemption we not only do sinful acts and have sinful attitudes BUT we are also sinners by nature who need to be saved from the wrath of God.

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the **wrath of God. (Romans 5:8-9)**

The Fall – What is sin?

And you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and **were by nature children of wrath**, like the rest of mankind. **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:1-7)

The Fall – What is the origin of sin?

- **Before Adam and Eve disobeyed there was sin in the fall of Satan and demons.**
- **The first human sin was that of Adam and Eve.**

1. Does God speak truthfully?

And the LORD God 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)

But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. (Genesis 3:4)

The Fall – What is the origin of sin?

- **Before Adam and Eve disobeyed there was sin in the fall of Satan and demons.**
- **The first human sin was that of Adam and Eve.**

2. Does God speak what is morally right?

For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:5)

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. (Genesis 3:6)

The Fall – What is the origin of sin?

- **Before Adam and Eve disobeyed there was sin in the fall of Satan and demons.**
 - 3. Are humans creatures dependent on God and always subordinate to him?**

BOTH EVE and ADAM succumbed to the temptation to be like God. (Genesis. 3:5-6)

The Fall – What is the origin of sin?

- **God did not sin but humans and some angels did.**

The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

(Deuteronomy 32:4)

Therefore, hear me, you men of understanding: far be it from God that he should do wickedness, and from the Almighty that he should do wrong. (Job 34:10)

- **God cannot even desire to do wrong and we cannot blame God as the cause of our sin.**

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

(James 1:13)

The Fall – What is the origin of sin?

- **There is not an eternal evil power in the universe.**
- **Sin did not surprise God or challenge his omnipotence or control over the universe.**
- **On the other hand, while God does not delight in sin, he did ordain that sin would come into the world through the voluntary choices of moral creatures.**

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works **all things according to the counsel of his will, (Ephesians 1:11)**

for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?” (Daniel 4:34-35)