

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Redemption:

The Heights Church October 23, 2016

The Fall – Concluding thoughts

- **What happens when a Christian sins?**
- **What is the unpardonable sin?**
- **Why does God punish sin?**
- **Doctrinal summary of the Fall.**

The Fall – What happens when a Christian sins?

1. Our legal standing before God is unchanged.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, (1 Corinthians 15:3)

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

The Fall – What happens when a Christian sins?

2. Our fellowship with God is disrupted and our Christian life is damaged.

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” (Hebrews 12:6 quoted from Proverbs 3:11-12)

Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. (Hebrews 12:9-10)

Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? (Romans 6:16)

The Fall – What happens when a Christian sins?

3. When we sin we suffer loss of heavenly reward.

Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. (1 Corinthians 3:12-15)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

The Fall – What is the unpardonable sin?

Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. (Matthew 12:31-32)

but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.” (Mark 3:29-30 cf. Luke 12:10)

The Fall – What is the unpardonable sin?

- **Various interpretations have been given for these and similar passages (Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26-27 and 1 John 5:16-17)**
 1. It refers only to sin committed when Christ was on earth.
 2. It refers to being in a state of unbelief at death.
 3. It refers to serious apostasy by genuine believers.
 4. It refers to a willful rejection and slander against the Holy Spirit's work of attesting to Christ and attributing that work to Satan.
- **The best explanation is that the unpardonable sin includes:**
 1. A clear knowledge of who Christ is and the power of the Holy Spirit working through him.
 2. A willful rejection of the facts about Christ that his opponents knew to be true.
 3. Attributing the work of the Holy Spirit in Christ to the power of Satan.

The Fall – Why does God punish sin?

- **Punishment does serve as a deterrent to further sin and a warning to those who observe it, this is not the primary reason.**
- **The primary reason is that God's righteousness demands it.**

but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.” (Jeremiah 9:24)

The Fall – Why does God punish sin?

- **Punishment does serve as a deterrent to further sin and a warning to those who observe it, this is not the primary reason.**
- **The primary reason is that God's righteousness demands it.**

But now the **righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 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 3:21-26)**

The Fall – Doctrinal Summary

Although God created man upright and perfect, and gave him a righteous law, which had been unto life had he kept it, and threatened death upon the breach thereof, yet he did not long abide in this honour; Satan using the subtlety of the serpent to subdue Eve, then by her seducing Adam, who, without any compulsion, did willfully transgress the law of their creation, and the command given unto them, in eating the forbidden fruit, which God was pleased, according to his wise and holy counsel to permit, having purposed to order it to his own glory. (6.1 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith)

Our first parents, by this sin, fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and we in them whereby death came upon all: all becoming dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of soul and body. (6.2 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith)

The Fall – Doctrinal Summary

They being the root, and by God's appointment, standing in the room and stead of all mankind, the guilt of the sin was imputed, and corrupted nature conveyed, to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation, being now conceived in sin, and by nature children of wrath, the servants of sin, the subjects of death, and all other miseries, spiritual, temporal, and eternal, unless the Lord Jesus set them free. (6.3 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith)

From this original corruption, whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions. (6.4 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith)

We sin because we are sinners.

The Fall – Doctrinal Summary

The corruption of nature, during this life, doth remain in those that are regenerated; and although it be through Christ pardoned and mortified, yet both itself, and the first motions thereof, are truly and properly sin. (6.5 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith)

The Fall – Doctrinal Summary

5.1 We believe that, although God created man morally upright, he was led astray from God's Word and wisdom by the subtlety of Satan's deceit, and chose to take what was forbidden, and thus declare his independence from, distrust for, and disobedience toward his all-good and gracious Creator. Thus, our first parents, by this sin, fell from their original innocence and communion with God.

(Elder Affirmation of Faith)

5.2 We believe that, as the head of the human race, Adam's fall became the fall of all his posterity, in such a way that corruption, guilt, death, and condemnation belong properly to every person. All persons are thus corrupt by nature, enslaved to sin, and **morally unable to delight in God and overcome their own proud preference for the fleeting pleasures of self-rule. (Elder Affirmation of Faith)**

The Fall – Doctrinal Summary

5.3 We believe God has subjected the creation to futility, and the entire human family is made justly liable to untold miseries of sickness, decay, calamity, and loss. Thus all the adversity and suffering in the world is an echo and a witness of the exceedingly great evil of moral depravity in the heart of mankind; and every new day of life is a God-given, merciful reprieve from imminent judgment, pointing to repentance. (Elder Affirmation of Faith)

The Fall – Doctrinal Summary

VI. Regeneration

We believe that man was created by God in His own image; that he sinned and thereby incurred physical, spiritual and eternal death, which is separation from God; that as a consequence, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by **choice and therefore under condemnation. We believe that those who repent and forsake sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and become new creatures, delivered from condemnation and receive eternal life.** (The Heights Church Congregational Affirmation of Faith)