Course: Basic Christianity

Week 3: Sin

PARTICIPANT'S OUTLINE



#### 1. Review:

- a. theology: the study/doctrine of the nature of God
- b. anthropology: the study/doctrine of the nature of man
- 2. QUESTION: What does it mean to be human?
  - a. two fundamental categories: God (Creator) & everything else (creation)
  - b. aka the "Creator-creation distinction"

# 3. Summary of today's topic:

- a. God created man in His own image. He entered into a *covenant* with Adam as the *federal head* of all the human race. Adam, however, fell into sin and thrust all the human race into a state of sin. In this state of sin, a human can do no spiritual good apart from the Holy Spirit's work.
- b. QUESTION: What is a covenant?
  - i. 'covenant' is used over 300 times in Scripture
  - ii. stipulations, benefits/sanctions (blessings/curses)
  - iii. definition?
    - 1. secular concept
    - 2. biblical concept
  - iv. covenant theology
  - v. covenant with Adam is called the "covenant of works" or the "covenant of life"
- c. QUESTION: What is meant by the term federal head?
  - i. analogy: like congressman/senator representing us on state/national level within government
  - ii. this term not actually in Scripture, but the concept is
    - 1. Romans 5:12: "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—"
    - 2. Romans 5:18-19: "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"
    - 3. <u>1 Corinthians 15:20-22</u>: "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. *For as by a man came death*, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. *For as in Adam all die*, so also in Christ shall all be made alive".

- 4. Man's Original, Created State
  - a. Adam & Eve created in a state of purity, without sin
  - b. also created with free will (able to sin and able not to sin)
  - c. covenant of works: if they had obeyed the stipulation, they would have lived forever
  - d. Genesis chapter 3: "The Fall"
  - e. QUESTION: What exactly was their first sin?
    - i. simply ate the fruit? (an action/behavior)
    - ii. more complicated (intention/motive/heart)
      - 1. Adam failed to teach his wife
      - 2. Eve forgot God's Word
      - 3. Eve added to God's Word
      - 4. Both valued Satan's added knowledge over obedience to God
      - 5. Eve questioned God's goodness
      - 6. Adam failed to exercise dominion
  - f. Conclusion: Adam, as our federal head, failed prior to he and Eve eating the forbidden fruit
  - g. we do the same thing!
- 5. Nature of Man Total Depravity
  - a. Adam and Eve's first sin was not just the simple eating of fruit (an action or behavior), but involved deeper emotions and thoughts
  - b. Sin is a state of being -> "original sin" corrupts our entire nature (all of creation!)
    - i. Romans 5:12a: "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-"
  - c. "total depravity": from birth, corrupted by a sin nature...inherently wicked...at odds with God (contrary to secular view that man is inherently "good" or that we are born good and only learn bad behaviors)
  - d. QUESTION: how do we see sin manifested in normal, everyday, "civilized" society?
  - e. QUESTION: where do we get this concept from in Scripture?
    - i. <u>Jeremiah 17:9</u>: "The heart is *deceitful above all things*, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"
    - ii. Ephesians 2:1-5: "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-"
    - iii. Romans 8: 6-8: "For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is **hostile to God**, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, **it cannot**. **Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**"
  - f. We are not just sinners because we sin, we sin because **we are** sinners.
  - g. What total depravity *is not*: total depravity does not mean that man is as sinful as he can possibly be. God restrains sin in us both in the believer and non-believer. We do have an inherent sense of "right and wrong". The "total" in total depravity does not mean we're as bad as we possibly can be; it means that it affects the entire person.

## 6. Spiritual Good

QUESTION: what about all the good things that non-believers do?

- a. Done for the glory of God? Done in faith?
  - Romans 3:11-12: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."
  - i. <u>Jeremiah 17:9</u>: "The heart is *deceitful* above all things..."
  - ii. Romans 14:23: "But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin".
  - iii. <u>Hebrews 11:6a</u>: "And without faith it is *impossible to please Him*..."
- a. horizontal good vs. vertical good

### 7. Alternative Views of Man

Naturalist/Humanist View	Liberal/Progressive View	Biblical View
man is good	man is sick, needs help morally	man is dead in sin
no need for a savior. no need of any improvement	more education, moral teaching, social justice, and government programs are the solution	man is in need of a Savior who can rescue and provide atonement for sin

<sup>&</sup>quot;If you only make 'mistakes', you simply need better instruction, examples, and encouragement. Even if you commit 'crimes', you may require incarceration or therapy to improve. But mistakes and crimes are not our primary problems. The wrongs that we do are called sins because they are first and foremost rebellions against God" -Michael Horton, Core Christianity.

# 8. Fourfold State of Man:

Pre-fall	Post-fall	Regenerate	Glorified
Able to sin, and not able to sin	Not able not to sin	Able not sin	Not able to sin
(evil came from outside of them – needed to be tempted)	(cannot help but sin – it is our nature)	(still sin, but able to not sin sometimes with the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit)	(fully glorified, with Jesus in heaven, no more sin nature)

<sup>&</sup>quot;To solve a problem this pervasive and endemic, we need nothing less than divine rescue. The dead need more than just a little makeup; they must be raised to life" -Michael Horton, Core Christianity.