

## Sermon Mini Series: Everything You Need to Know About Our Humanity

### Sermon Title: What the Bible Says About Mankind's Curse of Sin

April 29, 2018

Introduction: When did "sin" become a dirty word? 1920's Liberal Protestantism, 1950's Norman Vincent Peale, pastor of Marble Collegiate Church in NYC, wrote *Power of Positive Thinking*, then 1980's Robert Schuller Crystal Cathedral – now every Mainline Protestant denomination downplays sin in order to keep people coming and feel good. But, how can the "Good News of the Gospel Be Good News if there really is no bad news. If there is nothing to be saved from, why do we need a Savior and how stupid of God to send His one and only Son to the cross to die. Die for what?

Theme verse: *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— (ESV)*

Questions we will answer today:

What does the Bible say about what sin is, where it came from, how is it transmitted, how bad is it, and how does it affect our walk with God?

1. What is sin? Sin is lawlessness. It is a failure to abide by God's moral laws written in our hearts and on paper and in stone. *1 John 3:4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (ESV)*
  - It reveals itself by our actions, attitudes and nature. I.e. we sin in deed and in thought and all because we are sinful by nature. *Ephesians 2:3 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. (ESV)*
  - Make earthly comparisons. Parents set down rules for the safety and welfare of their children because they love them. So too has God set down rules for our benefit and well-being. When children disobey, they are demonstrating that they do not respect nor believe that their parent's rules are for their good. When they obey grudgingly they display that their heart is disrespecting and disbelieving even though their actions are displaying forced compliance. When they inwardly and outwardly rebel they are displaying that it is their nature, before their hearts are regenerated, to disobey and resist authority. Their nature is also worthy of condemnation and punishment. Why? Because they can choose to have a new nature and not be controlled by their old nature.
    - Can a leopard change his spots? Not until the King reigns in the millennium. But unlike leopards, we can change our spots or our nature because the Lord has promised those who trust in him that he will give them a new nature. So yes, we are guilty of punishment just because we are children of wrath.
  - Sin is serious. Don't call sinful choices mistakes. By choosing to do what an infinitely good God has told us not to do, laws he gave us for our good and the good of others around us, we are committing high treason against the holy God of the universe. Ask yourself the question, "How much does God hate sin?" and when you answer that adequately you could

never say your lies, lust, laziness, or any other lettered sin is a trifle that God is not angry about.

- **Let's Review;** sin is lawlessness. We break God's laws in thought, word and deed and are guilty because of our nature. This makes the gospel so beautiful. Despite our wickedness, so bad that God hates what we do and think, yet through Christ we can be forgiven forever.

2. Where does sin come from? Sin originated in the heart of Satan, then was spread to the human race by Adam.

- Sin is not a commodity like apples or a substance like rain to think that someone created it out of nothing. It is disobedience.
- Before Adam sinned, Satan and the angels sinned. *"1 John 3:8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (ESV) and Ezekiel 28:15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. (ESV)*
- Sin entered the human race through Adam and Eve. Genesis 3.
  - Wayne Grudem's insight:
    - Satan attacked Adam and Eve with simple lies. Lie #1 God is not true, Lie #2 God's ways are night right. Lie #3, You are equal to God, and Lie #4, You are wiser than God. The Bible says only fools rebel against God so it is irrational to disobey.

3. How is sin transmitted from one generation to another? It is transmitted through conception. This is the Doctrine of Original Sin.

- God holds all of us guilty of Adam's sin as if we too had sinned when Adam did. *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— and (ESV) Romans 5:13–14 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. And (ESV) 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. (ESV)*
- But people will say this is unfair of God to hold me accountable for Adam's sin as if I were there doing the sin myself. Does this sound fair to you? *so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (ESV)* If you don't want God to call you a sinner because you don't like to be represented by Adam, then don't take the free gift either since you would judge God and say that isn't fair. And who decides fairness anyway? What did Abraham say?
- But, how do our infant children get their sinful disposition (nature)? This happens at conception. It is passed down from parents to child. *Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. (ESV)*
  - You can't argue that children are sinners from birth. Who taught them to grab and pout and throw tantrums? Not the parents. Well not usually anyway.
- Does this mean that children who are aborted or die shortly after birth are condemned to hell because of their inherited sin?

- Some children are miraculously saved before they are born!!! What? *Luke 1:15 for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. (ESV)* and *Psalms 22:10 On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God. (ESV)*
- Some believe that only the children of believers who die early will go to heaven based on *2 Samuel 12:23 But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.” (ESV)* but not children of unbelievers. This is unacceptable to me.

4. Just how bad are some sins? Are some worse than others? Yes.

- Some sins are more harmful to one's self and to others than other sins.
  - Judas committed the greater sin because he knew Christ better than Pilate and that kind of betrayal was even worse than a judge punishing an innocent man.
  - James tells us that teachers are held to a higher account. *James 3:1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. (ESV)*
  - And Paul tells us that adultery is more serious than other sins: *1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. (ESV)*
  - And John tells us that people will be judged according to their deeds. *Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. (ESV)*
  - And Jesus says this about deceiving little children: *Matthew 18:6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. (ESV)*

5. How does sin affect our walk with God? It doesn't take away our salvation any more than a child lying to a parent makes that child no longer part of the family, but it strains the relationship considerably. Hebrews 12, 1 Corinthians 11,