



# WHAT WE BELIEVE

## Lesson 2: WHAT WE BELIEVE ... SIN

*“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”*

***Romans 5:12***

### Introduction

#### **Doctrinal Statement: The Fall of Man**

*God originally created man in His own image, and free from sin; but, through the temptation of Satan, he transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original holiness and righteousness; whereby his posterity inherit a nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and His law, are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors. (Gen. 1:26-27; 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12-19; Eph. 2:1-3)*

#### **I. Original State**

- God made man to live in close, personal relationship with Him

- Genesis 1:26, “Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness”
  - What does it mean to be made in God’s image?
  - What is the purpose of all mankind?

Isaiah 43:7

1 Cor 10:31

## II. Fall of Man

- Doctrinal Statement: *but, through the temptation of Satan, he transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original holiness and righteousness.*
- Genesis 3 provides the background to how the world was cast into sin
- The serpent, by bringing into question God’s command, cast doubt in Adam and Eve’s mind of God’s goodness and their happiness under God’s rule.
- The results of Adam and Eve’s disobedience were that:
  - They understood their nakedness
  - They hid from God
  - They blamed each other
- When Adam and Eve sinned they immediately died spiritually and began to die physically

### III. Inherited Sin

- What is the relationship of Adam to his descendants?
  - Do the ramifications of the fall have any effect on his descendants?
- Doctrinal Statement: *whereby his posterity inherit a nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and His law*
- Romans 5:12-19 shows us that when Adam sinned he acted on behalf of all humanity. Therefore, because of this relationship the ramifications and judgement that fell upon Adam fell upon all humanity.
- The two main outcomes of Adam's sin were that we have:
  - (1) Inherited Adam's guilt
  - (2) Inherited Adam's sin-nature
- In our natures we totally lack spiritual good
  - Rom 7:18, For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh.
  - Titus 1:15, To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.
- In our actions we are totally unable to do spiritual good before God
  - Eph 2:1-2, And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>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.

## IV. Sinners by Action

- Doctrinal Statement: *are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors.*
- “In James 4:17, the Bible says, “Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.” The Bible is clear that we are all born with a sin nature as a result of being in Adam (Roman 5:12). This is what is called the doctrine of original sin. However, the Scriptures make a distinction between original sin and actual sins. While all are guilty of original sin, moral responsibility and understanding is necessary for our being accountable for actual sins (Isaiah 7:16). It is to the one who knows to do right and does not do it that sin is reckoned. Infants are incapable of such decisions.” *Albert Mohler*

### Questions:

Do babies who die go to heaven?

How does sin affect Christians?

Are there degrees of sin?

What is the unpardonable sin?