

DOCTRINE OF SIN, PART 3

Conception of Sin

It is important for us to first address that **God did NOT create sin**. Because our God is holy, perfect, and without sin, He cannot be the author of sin. **Instead, sin entered our universe through an act of rebellion against God, NOT because God created sin.**

A. INTRODUCTION OF SIN INTO THE UNIVERSE

While many of us are already familiar with the story of Adam and Eve in Garden of Eden, this was not sin's origin. The closest that the Bible comes to stating definitely the origin of sin is in Ezekiel 28:15, in which the prophet speaks figuratively of Satan:

EZEKIEL 28:15 NLT

15 "You were blameless in all you did
from the day you were created
until the day evil was found in you.

God did NOT create angelic robots programmed to kneel and worship when given the signal. God also angelic beings with a certain amount of self-determination and free-will. They could freely choose to either worship and obey their Creator or they could reject and disobey Him. Therefore, **all sin must come from the creature, and the desire for evil comes from within that creature. Sin was found in Satan.**

1 JOHN 3:8 ESV

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.

Sin originated in the prideful mind of Satan, thinking that he could overthrow the throne of God. And from the beginning, Satan has been a deceiver and destroyer, corrupting mankind so that people would forget about God. He is the father of lies.

JOHN 8:44 ESV

44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

The enemy wants us to compromise so that we are drawn further from God. And when we do fall short, he will try to fill our head with lies, making us think that we are irredeemable or unlovable. He will make you doubt God's faithfulness and promises. Sin is NOT eternal. It had a starting point, and its starting point was found in Satan.

B. INTRODUCTION OF SIN INTO THE WORLD

*"While an angel introduced sin into the universe, it was a man who invited it into the world."
– Dr. Harold Wilmington*

When God created man, He gave them this instruction in Genesis 2:



GENESIS 2:16-17 ESV

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 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.”

In tempting Eve, **the enemy begins by doubting God’s Word and then ends by denying it.** By twisting God’s truth, Satan made God seem petty in not wanting others to be like Him nor share in His divine authority and position. We may notice that this is the very same lie that Satan made himself believe in wanting to be like God.

GENESIS 3:6 ESV

6 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.

That is how sin entered our world through an act of disobedience incited by the enemy. This act of disobedience by Adam in eating the fruit is what we call **the original sin** that we all inherit as members of the human race.

Distinction Between “SIN” and “SINS”

And at this point, it should be said that in the New Testament, Paul makes this distinction between “**SIN**” and “**SINS**.” “**SIN**” refers to the sinful nature we have received from Adam. “**SINS**” refer to the actions that result from that sinful nature. The singular form of “**SIN**” is what we have received from Adam while “**SINS**” are the transgressions we commit. In other words, **SIN is the root of man’s problems, while SINS are the fruit of man’s problems.**

When we look again at Romans 3:23, it should be literally translated this way:

ROMANS 3:23

23 “For all have sinned [past tense, in Adam], and are [present time, in daily experience] falling short of God’s glory”

It is important for us to understand this distinction because God will not deal with man regarding his **SINS** [what he does] until man first allows God to treat his **SIN** [sinful nature]. We are sinners twice over. We sin because of our sinful nature, and we are sinners because of the choices we make to sin.

And when it comes to the original sin, there are a lot of pointing fingers at Eve because she was first to eat from the tree. But let us look again at verse 6:

GENESIS 3:6 ESV

6 ... she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband **who was with her**, and he ate.

While Eve was being tempted by the serpent, **Adam was with her.** He kept quiet during the temptation, and in doing so, he gave a certain degree of silent approval to the lies that the enemy was imparting to Eve. Not only did he not stop the woman, but he joined her. **He also took the fruit, and he ate.** That is why theologically, **Adam is declared in the New Testament as the original human sinner who invited sin into the world.**

ROMANS 5:12 ESV

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—

Why Did God Allow Sin?

He could have prevented it but chose not to. God could either make sin impossible, or He could make beings free to choose, but He could not logically do both. In our own finite minds, we may not be able to fully understand the infinite mind of God. **But it is reasonable for us to believe that part of the answer is so that He might display the fullness of His nature and glory.**

Before Adam, God was already displaying His indescribable power, being anywhere and everywhere all at once, setting the galaxies in motion, creating beautiful and celestial beings. But if there was one characteristic and attribute that God wanted for man to understand was His **marvelous grace**.

JOHN 1:16-17 ESV

16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

God's plan must have included the allowing of sin to enter the world, because it included a Savior from the foundation of the world. **And he chose the plan that would allow us to experience the fullness of His grace.**

ROMANS 8:28 ESV

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In your own dealings with sin, what lies has the enemy tried to make you believe?
2. Share an experience of how the Lord was able to turn something bad to work for your good and His purposes. How has your understanding of God's grace deepened as you matured?