

Theology 1
The Nature & Source of Sin
Dr. Todd Stinnett
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*Analysis of the biblical data provides the best understanding of the nature, source, and consequences of sin. **Sin is any evil action or evil motive that is in opposition to God.** Simply stated, sin is failing to let God be God and placing something or someone in God's rightful place of supremacy.*

The Nature of Sin

- Definition of sin: Any lack of conformity, active or passive, to the moral law of God. This may be a matter of act, or thought, or of inner disposition or state. Sin is failure to live up to what God expects of us in **act, thought, and being**.
- Biblical Perspectives of Sin
 1. Sin is an inward inclination, not just wrong acts.
 - *We aren't sinners because we sin, we sin because we're sinners.*
 2. Sin is rebellion and disobedience. – Adam and Eve in the Garden
 3. Sin entails spiritual disability. It alters our inner condition, our character.
 4. Sin is incomplete fulfillment of God's standards. (Matt. 5:48, 1 Pet. 1:16)
 5. Sin is the displacement of God in our lives. (Exo. 20:3)
- It must be understood that there are sins of **commission** (things we do that are displeasing to God) and **omission** (things that please God that we fail to do – James 4:17).

The Source of Sin

- Various ideas of Sin's Source:
 1. The source of sin is our animal nature. Evolutionary process will finally free us.
 2. The anxiety caused by human finiteness. Altering our attitude is the cure.
 3. Estrangement from the ground of all being (God). Solution rests in becoming increasingly aware of one's participation in the work of God. (self-awareness)
 4. Economic struggle and oppression are the sources of sin. (Liberation theology)
 5. Individual competitiveness is the source of human sin
- The **Biblical** Teaching on Sin's Source
 - Humans are sinful by nature and live in a world in which powerful forces seek to seduce them to sin (Eph. 6:12).
 - James 1:13-14 – *"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God' for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed."*
 - The primary cause of sin appears to be **self**. As proof, try to think of a time when your sin was not motivated by a desire to satisfy yourself.
 - Not all sin is motivated by selfishness. The example of Uzzah demonstrates that (2 Sam. 6:1ff). Sometimes our sin comes in doing the right thing the wrong way.