

DOCTRINE OF ORIGINAL SIN

What is the sin nature?

The sin nature is that aspect in man that makes him rebellious against God. People are sinners by nature and choice. But, when we speak of the sin nature, we refer to the fact that we have a natural inclination to sin. Given the choice to do God's will or follow our own will, most will naturally do their own thing.

What does the Bible say about the sin nature?

Sin is frequently addressed in Scripture as something pertaining to the human race as a whole. This signifies sin is a quality of mankind. Therefore, we infer that we are all born sinners since we are all human and original sin is considered a part of humanity.

Ephesians 2:1-3

Is there proof of the sin nature?

Proof of the sin nature abound all around us and has since the beginning of man. No one needs to teach a child to do what is wrong. However, we go to great lengths to teach children to tell the truth and put others first, just to mention a couple of things here.

Does the Bible explain the reason for the trouble of sin?

Humanity is sinful, not just in theory or in practice but by nature. Sin is a part of the very fiber of our being. The Bible speaks of “sinful flesh” in [Romans 8:3](#) and [Psalm 51:5](#).

In [Romans 6:6](#) Paul speaks of the “body of sin might be done away with” because our bodies are ruled by sin. The flesh and blood experience we all lead on this earth is shaped by our sinful and corrupt nature.

Is the sin nature universal?

Yes. In all of humanity the sin nature is universal. We have a sinful nature, and this sin nature affects every part of us. Often this is the doctrine called the doctrine of Total Depravity, and this doctrine is biblical. All people have gone astray (sinned) ([Isaiah 53:6](#)). Paul admits he has a problem with sin in [Romans 7:14](#) “**For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.**” Paul was in his “[flesh \(sinful nature\) a slave to law of sin.](#)” Solomon declares in his wisdom writing in [Ecclesiastes 7:20](#) “[For there is not a just man on the earth who does good and does not sin.](#)” Then the Apostle John put it very bluntly, “[If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.](#)” (1 John 1:8)

Yes, the sin nature is even present in children. David even mentions the fact he was born with sin at work in him in [Psalm 51:5](#) “[Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.](#)” David further declares just a few chapters over in [Psalm 58:3](#) “[The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.](#)”

Where did the sin nature come from?

Scripture tells us that God created humans good and without a sinful nature. ([Genesis 1:27](#)). Yes, in [Genesis 3](#) we have recorded the disobedience of Adam and Eve. Through this one action, the partaking of the forbidden fruit, sin entered the nature of Adam and Eve. Immediately Adam and Eve were stricken with a deep sense of shame and they hid from the God's presence ([Genesis 3:8](#)). Notice the sin nature manifested itself early in the genealogy of Adam and Eve. Their first child, Cain, became the first murderer ([Genesis 4:8](#) – “Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.”)

From generation to generation, the sin nature was passed down to all of humanity. Paul addressed this in [Romans 5:12](#) “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.” Also, we all know [Romans 3:23](#).

Are there other consequences of the sin nature?

Yes. Hostility toward God and ignorance of the truth. We see this very clearly in our world today. Paul says in [Romans 8:7-8](#) in the ESV “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.” Also, the natural person does not accept the things God says. Paul said in [1 Corinthians 2:14](#) in the ESV “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

**Consequently, the sin nature creates a problem for the human race.
What is the solution?**

The Doctrine of Salvation (Soteriology)

The meaning of Salvation.

According to the broadest meaning as used in Scripture, the term *salvation* encompasses the total work of God by which he seeks to rescue man from the doom, power and ruin of sin and He bestows upon man the wealth of His grace giving eternal life and provision for an abundant life now and eternally – glory! (Eph. 1:3-8; 2:4-10; I Peter 1:3-; John 3:16, 36; 10:10)

The word “salvation” communicates the thought of deliverance, safety, preservation, restoration, and healing. Yet in theology the word’s major use is to denote a work of GOD on behalf of mankind, and therefore it includes the major doctrines of redemption, reconciliation, propitiation, conviction, repentance, faith, regeneration, forgiveness, justification, sanctification, preservation, and glorification.

Salvation reveals several things about GOD!

Salvation brings glory to God. Salvation reveals a number of things about God that bring glory to the person of God and show us some of the reasons for salvation.

4 things in summary fashion –

1. It reveals His love! The greatest evidence of the love of God is that He would send His one and only son, Jesus Christ, to this earth to live as a human just like us. The word of God declares that God provided salvation because He is a loving God. ([John 3:16](#); [1 John 4:7-10](#))
2. Salvation through Jesus Christ is a manifestation of God's amazing grace! Grace is God's non-merited favor. ([Eph. 2: 7-9](#)). Only Christianity offers salvation based on grace and not works. All other world religions have man working to acquire salvation.
3. The salvation in the Bible also shows us the holiness of God. God provided salvation through the person and work of His Son, Jesus Christ, because He is a holy God. In God's love and grace, He desired fellowship with man. However, man's rebellion and sin created a barrier between God and man that hindered any fellowship with man because of God's infinite holiness. Both God's holiness and His love are satisfied by the person and work of Jesus Christ, God's son, so that man can be reconciled to God and fellowship restored.
4. Adam and Eve were created in the image of God that they might give a visible display of God's character as they walked in fellowship with the invisible God. When Adam and Eve sinned the man's fellowship with God was broken. Through salvation, the capacity for fellowship is restored and man's ability to manifest, even though imperfectly, the goodness of God.

Salvation for our past, present, and future!

Salvation in Christ is a part of the predetermined plan of God and extends into the eternal future (Eph. 1:4). Our salvation has three observable phases in the Word of God. If we understand this truth a lot of tension from the standpoint of security can be relieved. Understanding this will assist the believer in learning to relax in the Lord and His grace while at the same time moving forward in spiritual growth.

Past tense of salvation!

Saved from the penalty of sin. Several passages speak of salvation as accomplished and completed for the one who has believed in the person and work of Jesus Christ. The aspect of once and for all being delivered from sin's penalty and spiritual death (Luke 7:50; 1 Cor. 1:18; 2 Cor 2:15; Eph. 2:5, 8; Tit. 3:5; Heb. 7:25; 2 Tim. 1:9). So complete and perfect is the work of God in Christ that the believer is declared permanently saved and safe forever (John 5:24; 10:28, 29; Rom. 8:1, 37-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5).

Present tense of salvation!

This phase has to do with the present deliverance over the reigning power of sin or the carnal nature's power in the lives of believers (Rom 6:1-23; 8:2; 2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 2:19-20; 5:1-26; Phil 1:19; 2:12-13; 2 Thes. 2:13). This present tense of salvation is accomplished by the Holy Spirit and is based upon the work of Christ and the union of the believer and the co-identification with Christ in that work.

Future tense of salvation!

The future tense of salvation refers to the future deliverance all believers in Christ will experience through a glorified resurrected body. In this life the Christian never becomes perfect (Phil. 3:12-14). The believer though once and for all saved from the penalty of sin will yet be saved into full conformity to Jesus Christ (Rom.

8:29; 13:11; 1 Peter 1:5; 1 John 3:2). **Understand that some aspects of salvation as yet to be accomplished in no way implies that there is ground for doubt as to the outcome of eternal salvation because ALL THREE PHASES ARE DEPENDENT UPON THE MERIT AND WORK OF GOD IN HIS SON, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

The nature and work of Salvation as the work of God.

Salvation is the free gift of God to man by grace through faith, completely aside from human works. (Eph. 2:8,9). In Eph. 3:8 the word “Unfathomable” or “unsearchable” is used. The work in the original language that is used means past finding out, not to be tracked out. The idea is that our blessings in Christ are “too deep to be measured.”

The saving work of God encompasses various aspects which together accomplish salvation: these include redemption, forgiveness, reconciliation, propitiation, justification, imputation, regeneration, expiation, sanctification, and even glorification.

As a finished work – Jesus said on the cross “It is finished.” Salvation is a done proposition. Man’s responsibility is to accept this by faith, faith alone in Christ alone. When Jesus said “It is finished” he was affirming the fact of the finished nature of what He has accomplished on the cross for the world.

The Necessity of Salvation – The Barrier

Barrier 1 – The Holiness of God

In [Isaiah 57:15](#) the word of God declares His name is holy. The holiness of God has two branches: perfect righteousness and perfect justice. It is impossible for God to do anything wrong or to have fellowship with anything less than His perfect righteousness. God cannot be partial or unfair to anyone and He must deal with the creature in perfect justice. This means all that is unrighteous or sinful must be judged and separated from Him ([Ps. 119:137-138; 145:17; with Hab. 1:13; Rom. 2:5-6, 11, 1:18, 14:11-12; 1 Pet. 4:5](#))

Barrier 2 – The Sin of Man

[Romans 3:23](#) and [Isaiah 59:1 and 2](#). Sin creates a barrier between God and man which hinders access to God. There is only one way to break this sin barrier, ([John 14:6](#)). The barrier of sin is one of the reasons that God, in His sovereign love, gave His son to die on the cross for our sin. There are three aspects which make up the barrier of sin.

1. Imputed sin – [Romans 5:12](#), Adam's sin was imputed to every man. Just as this is true, so Christ's righteousness is imputed to all who become children of God by faith in Christ because of His one act of righteousness ([Rom. 5:16-18](#))
2. Inherited sin- The Bible teaches the fact that, the descendants of Adam, every child is born with a sinful nature inherited from their parents. Many passages refer to this. [Eph. 2:1-3; Psalm 51:5; Psalm 58:3](#).
3. Individual or personal sin- [Romans 3:23](#)

Barrier 3 – The Penalty of Sin

Because God is holy and man is sinful, God's perfect justice must act against man to charge him as guilty and under the penalty of sin with a debt to pay, and a sentence to serve. Man is guilty and under the penalty of sin.

[Rom. 3:19-20](#); [Gal. 3:19](#); [Gal. 3:22](#); [Col. 2:14](#)

The only hope for man is in the righteousness of God which He supplies through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. ([Rom. 3:21-5:21](#))

Barrier 4 – Spiritual Death

The apostle Paul teaches that in Adam all die ([1 Cor. 15:22](#)). Paul also teaches us that the "wages of sin is death", [Rom. 6:23](#). In [Rom 5:12](#) we read "therefore, just as one man's sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death to all men, because all sinned." Death is the consequence of sin. Several verses bear this out ([Gen 2:17](#); [1 Cor. 15:21, 56](#); [Eph.2 1, 5](#); [Col. 2:13](#)). Men cannot save themselves no matter how hard they try or no matter how sincere they are. Therefore, man is separated from God by sin and by God's holy character and by the penalty of sin, and he is faced with the problem of spiritual death and the need of spiritual life.

Barrier 5- Unrighteousness

Paul quoted [Psalm 14:1-3](#), "there is none righteous, not even one." All of man's good works will not secure salvation for him. So, man has a five-fold dilemma of these barriers. The solution is God's work of grace in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. This work of grace is called reconciliation.

THE DOCTRINE OF RECONCILIATION

The English word reconcile means to cause to be friendly again; to bring back to harmony, make peace. The words in the original language that Paul used to describe reconciliation are very complete. The word “reconciled or reconciliation” used in ([Rom 5:10](#); [2 Cor. 5:18-19](#)) is a triple compound word. It does not occur in earlier Greek and expresses the idea of the completeness of reconciliation. It can properly be translated “to reconcile completely.”

The reconciliation of God is closely tied to “peace with God” and as Scripture speaks of Christ as “our peace.” Being reconciled to God through Christ removes the enmity and alienation that separate man from God. Reconciliation is the whole work of God in Christ by which man is brought from the place of enmity to harmony or peace with God ([Romans 5:1](#)).

We are “ministers of reconciliation” according to 2 Cor. 5.

Results of Reconciliation

- 1. Removal of the barrier, the things that separate man from God**
- 2. Positional sanctification and a perfect standing before God**
- 3. Justification declared righteous before God through Christ’s righteousness imputed to us.**

For Whom did Christ Die?

The Bible teaches that Christ's death, and His work of redemption was not only sufficient for the entire world, but that He actually died for the sins of all the world. This is called "Unlimited Atonement." But this does not mean universal salvation. It means that only that Christ's death paid the penalty for the sin of all the world and for all time. For the Savior's death to be effective for any individual that person must personally believe or trust in Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior.

REPENTANCE

Six aspects for true repentance

- 1. Sight of sin – see our sin**
- 2. Sorrow for sin – Godly sorrow**
- 3. Confession of sin**
- 4. Shame for sin**
- 5. Hatred for sin**
- 6. Turning from sin**

Charles Spurgeon writes:

Repentance is a discovery of the evil of sin, a mourning that we have committed it, a resolution to forsake it. It is, in fact, a change of mind of a very deep and practical character, which makes the man love what once he hated, and hate what once he loved.

J. I. Packer writes:

Repentance means turning from as much as you know of your sin to give as much as you know of yourself to as much as you know of your God, and as our knowledge grows at these three points so our practice of repentance has to be enlarged.