

Adam: Our First Representative

A Biblical Examination of Original Sin

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How Did We Become Sinners?

The Various Views:

1. **Pelagian:** Adam's sin did not affect others. There is no such thing as original sin and man is not depraved. (Adam was a bad example!)
2. **Arminian:** Mankind received corruption from Adam but not Adam's guilt. Our nature is corrupted physically and intellectually, but not volitionally. We are enabled to believe by prevenient grace.
3. **Semi-Pelagian:** Mankind received corruption and guilt from Adam, but mankind is not spiritually dead (only weakened).
4. **Realist:** Mankind is corrupt and guilty through Adam, but both are imputed because we were really there (Preexistent soul)!

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How Did We Become Sinners?

The Various Views Continued:

5. **Seminal:** Mankind was in the "loins" of Adam. We have a sin nature through hereditary depravity (Mediate imputation).
6. **Federal:** Adam was made the representative for all mankind by God. Adam's sin and corruption was imputed to all mankind (Immediate imputation).

Guilt: Are we guilty because of what Adam did?
Corruption: Are our bodies and minds affected by Adam's sin?
Extent: How severe is the corruption induced by Adam's sin?
Imputation: How was Adam's sin passed on to us?

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The Views Compared

	Guilt	Moral Corruption	Extent
Pelagian:	no	no	alive
Arminian:	no	yes	weakened
Semi-P.	yes	yes	weakened
Realist:	yes	yes	dead
Seminal:	yes	yes	dead
Federal:	yes	yes	dead

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Adam's Sin Makes Mankind Guilty

Romans 5:18-19 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

What About Prevenient Grace?

John 10:24-26 The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. 26 "But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep" (cf. Matt. 13:11; John 6:37; 44).

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How Bad Is It Doctor?

To what extent are we affected by Adam's sin?

1. Alive
2. Weakened
3. Dead

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We Were Spiritually Dead

Ephesians 2:1-6 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...

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The Transmission of Sin

Transmission:

1. Realist – Immediate (we were there!)
2. Seminal – Mediate (through our parents)
3. Federal – Immediate (Adam was our representative)

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The Transmission of Sin

Augustine's Seminal View:

Romans 5:12 Latin version Therefore, just as sin entered this world by one man and through sin death; so death passed into all men, **in whom** all sinned.

Romans 5:12 NASB Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, **because** all sinned.

...ἐφ' ᾧ πάντες ἥμαρτον.

2 Cor. 5:4 For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, **because** we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

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Were We "With" Christ on the Cross?

Romans 5:15-18 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if **by the transgression of the one** the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift **by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ**, abound to the many. 16 The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the **judgment arose from one transgression** resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. 17 For if **by the transgression of the one**, death reigned **through the one**, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life **through the One, Jesus Christ**. 18 So then as **through one transgression** there resulted condemnation to all men, even so **through one act of righteousness** there resulted justification of life to all men.

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The Need for a New Representative

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Romans 5:19 For as **through the one man's disobedience** the many **were made** sinners, even so **through the obedience of the One** the many **will be made** righteous.

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