

**Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics**

Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

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Key Protestant Reformation Doctrines

Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

1. The Fall - Original Sin
2. The Doctrines of Grace
3. Jesus the God-man
4. The Atonement
5. The Work of the Holy Spirit
6. Prayer
7. Grace
- 8. The Fall (Review)**
- 9. Election**
- 10. Calling**
- 11. Regeneration**
- 12. Conversion**
- 13. Justification**
- 14. Adoption**
- 15. Sanctification**
- 16. Perseverance**
- 17. Baptism In/Filling with the Holy Spirit**
- 18. Death and the Intermediate State**
- 19. Glorification**
- 20. Union with Christ**

The Fall – Review

- The Fall in Genesis 3 should be considered Historical Narrative.
- Because of Adam's sin every natural born person is counted guilty.
- Because of Adam's sin we all have a sinful nature.
- Before the Law was given people died because they had inherited Adam's sin BUT their sins were not counted as infractions of the Law.
- Before we were born God thought of us as sinners because we had descended from Adam.

The Fall – Original Sin

- Original Sin does not primarily refer to the first sin by Adam and Eve, but rather to the result of the first sin – the corruption of the human race namely, that everyone (except Jesus) is born a sinner in God's eyes.
- The serpent is an incarnation of Satan.
- Satan subverts marriage bypassing Adam and tempting Eve.
- Satan emphasizes God's prohibition not his provision. Satan casts doubt on God's sincerity and motives.

The Fall – Original Sin

And the LORD (*Yahweh*) God (*Elohim*) commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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."

(Genesis 2:16 – 17)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD (*Yahweh*) God (*Elohim*) had made. He said to the woman, "Did God (*Elohim*) actually say, 'You shall not eat of **any** tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,

The Fall – Original Sin

but God (*Elohim*) said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the **midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it**, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God (*Elohim*) knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God (*Elohim*), knowing good and evil." 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. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. (Genesis 3:1 – 7)

The Fall – Original Sin

Yahweh is the name of God (I AM WHO I AM) revealed to Moses as four Hebrew consonants (YHWH) called the tetragrammaton. It is translated as Jehovah in the Vulgate.

- After the Babylonian Exile, Jews ceased to use *Yahweh* for two reasons.
 1. As Judaism spread to other countries, ***Elohim***, meaning “God,” tended to replace ***Yahweh*** to demonstrate Israel’s God was sovereign over all others.
 2. ***Yahweh*** was increasingly regarded as too sacred to be uttered; it was thus replaced vocally in the synagogue ritual by the Hebrew word ***Adonai*** (“My Lord”), which was translated as ***Kyrios*** (“Lord”) in the Septuagint. In the NT ***Kyrios*** is used about 740 times and usually refers to Jesus.

The Fall – Original Sin

- The essence of sin is a failure to trust God and an assertion of our autonomy.

In sin we fail to do what God commands and do what God forbids.

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but **not the ability to carry it out**. ... Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (Romans 7:18, 24 – 25)

The Fall – Original Sin

- The Catechism of the Roman Catholic Church says:
- By his sin Adam, as the first man, lost the original holiness and justice he had received from God, not only for himself but for all humans.
- Adam and Eve transmitted to their descendants human nature wounded by their own first sin and hence deprived of original holiness and justice; this deprivation is called "original sin".
- As a result of original sin, human nature is weakened in its powers, subject to ignorance, suffering and the domination of death, and inclined to sin.

The Fall – Original Sin

- Eastern Orthodoxy acknowledges that the introduction of ancestral sin into the human race affected the subsequent environment for humanity. However, they never accepted Augustine of Hippo's notions of original sin and hereditary guilt.
- Quakers believe in the doctrine of inward light (that of God is in everyone).
 - Liberal Quakers believe humans are inherently good and everyone will be saved.
 - Conservative/Evangelical Quakers believe people may or may not listen to the voice of God within them and be saved. People who do not listen are not saved.

The Fall – Original Sin

- Protestants, Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh-day Adventists follow the teaching of Augustine on Original Sin.
- The Mormon Church Articles of Faith state: We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.
- Most modern Jews reject Original Sin though some Orthodox Jews teach that Original Sin was due to Adam's yielding to temptation in eating of the forbidden fruit and has been inherited by his descendants.
- Islam does not have a doctrine of Original Sin.

The Fall – What is inherited sin?

1. We are counted guilty because of Adam's sin.

- We have *imputed* sin from Adam meaning *“to think of belonging to someone and therefore to cause it to belong to that person.”*
- Inherited sin is usually called original sin. Original does not refer to Adam's first sin but that Adam represented every human and when Adam disobeyed, God counted every naturally born human as also guilty.

The Fall – What is inherited sin?

- Inherited sin seems unfair BUT (1) we have all willingly committed many other sins for which we are guilty. (2) If we had been Adam we **probably** would have done the same thing. (3) If someone thinks it is unfair to be represented by Adam and have imputed sin and guilt then why is it fair to be represented by Christ and have imputed righteousness?
- Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) said, “The doctrine of original sin seems an offense to reason, but once accepted it makes total sense of the human condition.”

The Fall – What is inherited sin?

2. We have a sinful nature because of Adam's sin. (Psalm 51:5)

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. **It is not necessary to teach a child how to sin!**

- But we are not as bad as we could be due to the constraints of Common Grace expressed through civil law, expectations of others, the conviction of our conscience. Nevertheless, our un-regenerated natures totally lack spiritual good before God.
- Every part of our being is affected by sin

The Fall – What is inherited sin?

3. Our natures totally lack spiritual good before God. Every part of our being is affected by sin.

The heart* is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? (Jeremiah 17:9)

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my **flesh**. For I have the desire to do what is right, but **not the ability** to carry it out. (Romans 7:18)

* center of our desires and decision-making

The Fall – What is inherited sin?

4. We are unable to do **spiritual good** before God. This does not mean that unbelievers cannot do anything “good” (especially as the world defines good) but that they cannot do good in the sense of pleasing God.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for **apart from me you can do nothing**. (John 15:5)

The Fall – What is inherited sin?

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.

(Romans 8:7-8)

Because:

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18)

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. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

The Fall – What is inherited sin?

So the result is:

And you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins 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 - among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:1-4)

The Fall

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5)

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. (Isaiah 64:6)

“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” (Romans 3:10-12)

The Fall – Possible Effects

- Reformed: (Augustinian, Calvinist, Doctrines of Grace): Original sin is imputed to everyone **and** we are born **without** free will. Hence unbelievers are **morally unable** to not sin.
- Universalist: The Fall is not an actual historical event. Everyone goes to heaven when they die. **Rejected by all Christians.**
- Pelagian: Adam's sin is not imputed to **anyone**. Everyone has equal standing at birth with Adam before he fell. **Rejected by Council of Carthage 418 and First Council of Ephesus in 431.**
- Semi-pelagian: Original sin is imputed to **everyone**. However, free will is not totally lost so that everyone is able to freely choose to believe or not believe in Jesus). **Rejected by the Council of Orange in 529 and Synod of Dort in 1619.**