

The Fact of Sin

Introduction:

Understanding the Biblical doctrine of sin is of the utmost importance because a correct understanding sin is necessary to the right understanding of salvation. Current popular trends do not preach God's view of sin, but present it as "human weakness," merely a "lack of fulfillment," or the like — turning the plan of salvation into a self-improvement program, or simply the attainment of a better life-style.

I. The Fact of Sin Denied

There are a number of erroneous theories concerning sin:

A. The Materialist Theory

"All material substance is evil. The body is material, therefore necessarily and helplessly evil." This view follows the Platonic line, and actually blames God for sin.

It is important to understand that the Biblical use of the term "the flesh" in relation to sin (e.g. Romans 7:18) is referring to the old Adamic sin nature, not the literal substance of the human body.

B. The Evolutionist Theory

"Sin is the natural outgrowth of man's progress, the backward pull of out good." Sin is 'good in the making.'

C. The Flippant Theory

This theory holds that sin is a joke, a matter so trivial as to be humorous.

D. The Disease Theory

"Sin is weakness in man, an incurable sickness of the blood for which man is not held accountable."

E. The Christian Science Theory

"Sin is the absence of good. Sin is a figment of man's imagination, his failure to exercise the power of mind over matter."

F. The Accident Theory

"Sin is accidental, and therefore carries no guilt."

G. The Demonic Theory

Present day so-called 'deliverance ministries' see (for example) lust as a result of the "demon of lust" which must be cast out.

Each one of these theories has a common denominator — they seek to remove any blame or guilt from the sinner.

This very same thing was evident in the Garden of Eden — Adam blamed the "woman whom thou [God] gavest" (Genesis 3:12); the woman blamed the serpent (Genesis 3:13).

Modern psychiatry also looks for a reason apart from sin. Parents, society, or the environment are often blamed, and the criminal exonerated.

II. The Fact of Sin Demonstrated

A. Declared By the Bible

Romans 3:10, 23; 5:12

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The fact of sin is one of the great themes of the Word of God.

1. Laying at the door. — Genesis 4:7
 2. Grievous — Genesis 18:20
 3. Impossible to hide — Numbers 32:23; Proverbs 28:13; Ezekiel 21:24
 4. The cause of turmoil — Psalm 38:3
 5. A blinding cord — Proverbs 5:22
 6. The cause of destruction — Proverbs 13:6
 7. The great corrupter — Isaiah 1:5-6
 8. The cause of woe — Isaiah 30:1
 9. The cause of spiritual death — Isaiah 59:2
 10. The remover of blessings — Jeremiah 5:25
 11. Graven upon the heart — Jeremiah 17:1
 12. The cause of sickness and desolation — Micah 6:13
- B. Proclaimed by Creation
Romans 3:21-22 cf. Genesis 3:17

With the rose is the thorn.

- C. Confessed by Man
1. Not Worthy — Genesis 32:10
 2. Vile — Job 40:4
 3. Poor and Needy — Psalm 40:17
 4. Undone — Isaiah 6:5
 5. A Sinful Man — Luke 5:8
 6. No More Worthy — Luke 15:19
 7. Carnal — Romans 7:14
 8. Chief of Sinners — I Timothy 1:15
- D. Proven by Experience
There is universal confession by men: “I have sinned!” — Job 33:27-28

For example, this statement has been made:

1. By Pharaoh — Exodus 9:27; 10:16
 2. By Balaam — Numbers 22:34
 3. By Achan — Joshua 7:20
 4. By David — II Samuel 19:20
 5. By Nehemiah — Nehemiah 1:6
 6. By Job — Job 7:20
 7. By Micah — Micah 7:9
 8. By Judas — Matthew 27:4
 9. By the Prodigal Son — Luke 15:21
- E. Acknowledged by Christians
I John 1:8-10; Romans 7:15-25
- F. Defined by the Law
Romans 3:19-20

The “Law” is like a speed limit sign. A driver may be traveling down a highway at a rapid rate and know he is speeding — but when he sees a speed limit sign, he knows by just how much he is speeding. See: Romans 5:13, 20.

III. The Fact of Sin Delineated

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Sin is universal.

- A. All men in all ages are sinners.
Genesis 6:12; Psalm 14:3; 53:2-3; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:10, 23
- B. There are no exceptions
I Kings 8:46; Isaiah 64:6; James 3:2; I John 1:8-10
- C. There are no age limits.
 - 1. Children — Psalm 51:5; 58:3
 - 2. The aged — I Samuel 2:22, 27-30