

“Original Sin” (Evil Babies)

Foundation for Apostasy

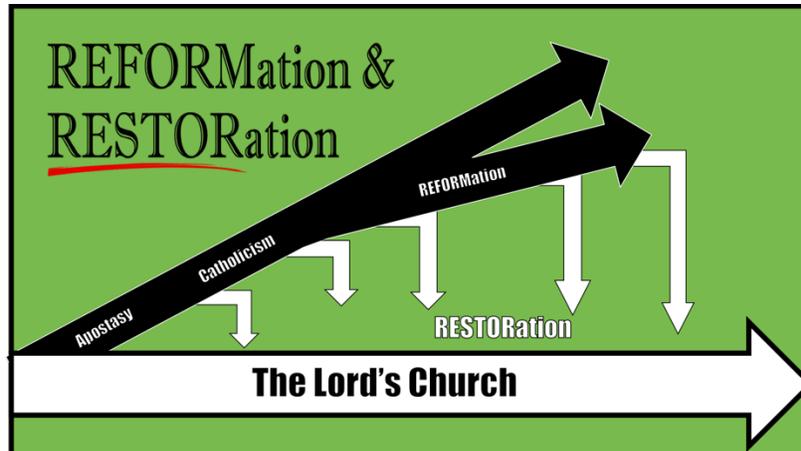
By Sonny Childs

© Copyright 2023
Sonny Childs & Family Ministries

“Original Sin”

Actually Means “Evil Babies”

As soon as the church began (Acts 2), the constant need for repentance and restoration also began. From the beginning, men have often been distracted by the desire to shape the church in their image (REFORMation Movement). Because of that temptation, the efforts of a RESTORation Movement have been with us from the start.



Religious men know that God deserves obedience, but too often they create their own laws to help God reach His goal. While the desire might be admirable, it does not come without the temptation to employ human wisdom and human authority along the way. In the process, they not only put words in God's mouth, they also attempt to join Him on His throne of authority. (Example: The Pope)

The false doctrines associated with asceticism serve as a prime example of the foundation for apostasy. From the opening days of the church, extreme conclusions about our flesh/spirit nature have been made and condemned by the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 2:18, 20-23 (ESV) Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism ... 20 do you submit to regulations— 21 "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

It was from these extreme views that the first seeds of apostasy was planted – “original sin” (evil babies).

Throughout the course of church history, the perversions of this false doctrine has morphed into gross misrepresentations of passages which are cherry-picked from their context. Catholicism and Calvinism are the chief culprits. They use Adam's personal failure as a cue to assume that we all must be failures before we even try – evil babies. Their blasphemous conclusions demand that God knits us together as flawed individuals, totally unable to succeed. God forms us with a soul pre-tainted by the original sin of someone else. True personal accountability no longer exists. God becomes the dynamic behind our failure to please Him.

In this study, we will take a deeper look into the passages often abused by Catholicism and Calvinism, as well as seek the harmony of God's words over the doctrines of men.

Romans 5:12 (ESV)

*Therefore, **just as** sin came into the world **through one man**,
and **death through sin**, and so **death spread to all men**
because all sinned—*

Q: When Adam fell, did all mankind completely fall as well? Was Adam the Federal Head of all mankind?

A: Please note several things God says in this passage:

1. **“just as”** - In the same way sin comes, death comes.
2. **“through one man”** - Adam introduced sin into God’s sinless context.
3. **“death through sin”** - Sin introduced a result into the world called death, literally separation.
4. **“death spread to all men”** - The result of Adam’s sin (death, separation) is what spread.
5. **“because all sinned”** - The vehicle causing the spread is sin.

In other words, the consequence of death comes about when each individual chooses to sin.

Q: But that presents a very important question. If babies do not inherit original sin, why do babies die?

A: We must bear in mind that the topic of this passage is the spiritual condition of man, not the physical. Romans 5 is addressing spiritual death. Read the context before and after. Notice the discussion of reconciliation, trespasses, judgement, and justification. All of these terms indicate spiritual priorities.

The greatest tragedy of the cross was not physical death, but His spiritual separation from the Father. (Matthew 27:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

Remember, Jesus aged and was subject to the physical consequences of this fallen realm, but that doesn’t mean Jesus was evil!

Sinless babies suffer under the same fallen world influences as the sinless Son of God. It doesn’t mean that either one of them are inherently evil. It’s only after we choose to sin that we become guilty of sin. (Genesis 4:7; Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 5:12)

Conclusion: Adam’s sin brought both physical death and spiritual death into the world. However, while we cannot avoid physical death, we can avoid spiritual death by choosing a Savior.

Romans 5:12, 18-21 (ESV)

*Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin,
and so death spread to all men **because all sinned** ...*

*18 Therefore, as **one trespass led to condemnation for all men,**
so **one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.***

*19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners,
so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.*

To further emphasize the importance of biblical harmony, let's look deeper into the modifying context of Romans 5:12.

1. **"because all sinned"** - Notice that the spreading of death came "because all sinned." Death (separation from God) occurs when we sin, not simply because there are dueling natures.
2. **"one trespass led to condemnation for all men"** - Notice that Adam's sin "led to condemnation for all men." Catholicism and Calvinism would conclude this represents "TOTAL Depravity" and ALL men are condemned without sinning. However, we must remember that whatever conclusion applies to the first Adam, must also apply to the second Adam (Jesus).
3. **"one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men"** - Notice that Jesus does the same thing as Adam only He does it in reverse - "one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men."

Q: Are "all" men righteous because of Jesus?

A: Yes, but only in potentiality. If they choose the God nature over the fallen nature, they become righteous. See Acts 17:26-27.

If that is so, then the opposite must also be true.

Q: Are "all" men condemned because of Adam?

A: Yes, but only in potentiality. If they choose the fallen nature over the God nature, they become condemned. See Romans 5:12.

Conclusion: If you believe in the doctrine of "original sin," you must ask yourself this question - Was the sin of the first Adam more powerful than the righteousness of the second? The comparison within this passage is quite vivid. Whatever occurred through the act of one man (Adam) was undone through the act of another (Jesus Christ). Even if the taint of "original sin" had been passed down through the generations, the Messiah came to break that bondage to sin.

Romans 3:10-18 (ESV)

"None is righteous, no, not one;
11 no one understands; **no one seeks for God.**
12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good, not even one."
13 **"Their throat is an open grave;**
they use their tongues to deceive."
"The venom of asps is under their lips."
14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."
15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;
16 in their paths are ruin and misery,
17 and the way of peace they have not known."
18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Catholics and Calvinists often turn to this passage to claim man's "total depravity." However, when brought into harmony with the whole counsel of God, it is obvious that their cherry-picking of Scripture is abusive and that the passage does not say what their pre-conclusions demand.

1. **"None is righteous, no, not one"** – Does this statement indicate that no one has ever been or will ever be righteous? If so, what are we to do with the following words:

Genesis 6:9 (ESV) Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

Romans 4:3 (ESV) "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."

2. **"no one seeks for God"** - Does this statement indicate that no one ever has or ever will seek God? If so, what are we to do with the following words:

2 Chronicles 17:3-4 (ESV) The Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the earlier ways of his father David. He did not seek the Baals, 4 but sought the God of his father and walked in his commandments...

2 Chronicles 34:3 (ESV) For in the eighth year of his reign (Josiah), while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father...

Acts 17:26-27 (ESV) From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

3. **"Their throat is an open grave ... The venom of asps is under their lips"** - Q: Was their throat an actual grave? Did they literally have the "venom of asps" under their lips? Notice that, in many translations, the entire context of Romans 3:10-18 is set off in a different format. This is done to indicate a unique literary style. One of the qualities of this unique style is the use of rhetorical overstatement throughout (Divine hyperbole).

Conclusion: Mankind is not "totally depraved." The Holy Spirit's use of rhetorical overstatement throughout (Divine hyperbole) was done to provide emphasis on the prevailing condition of the world, not to give credibility to the false doctrine of "Original Sin."

Psalm 51:5 (ESV)

Behold, I was **brought forth** in iniquity,
and in sin did **my mother** conceive me.

Psalm 58:3 (ESV)

The wicked are estranged from the womb;
they go astray from birth, **speaking lies**.

These two passages from the Psalms are, without doubt, favorites to the Catholic and Calvinistic promotion of “original sin.” But let’s look deeper.

1. **“brought forth”** - Q: Was David saying that he was born guilty of “original sin” or was he “brought forth” into a context of “iniquity?”
2. **“my mother”** – Q: Was David saying that he was born guilty of “original sin” or was he describing the sin of how he was conceived?
3. **“speaking lies”** – Q: Do newborns come out of the womb speaking or is this another of example of Divine hyperbole, rhetorical overstatement used to emphasize the prevailing condition of the world?

Note: In their rush to promote this false doctrine, they often point to the “selfishness” of children as evidence of “original sin.” In fact, I once had a Calvinist tell me that when a baby kicks in the womb, it is evidence that the baby is evil.

Another, more famous, Calvinist once said this about babies - “It’s not a little angel. That’s a viper in a diaper ... The angry cry happens early. The demanding cry happens early. The stiffening up of the body, that happens early ... One of the reasons God makes them so small is so they don’t kill you. And one of the reasons He makes them so cute is so that you won’t kill them.” - Voddie Baucham

But, let me ask you this:

Is a baby sinfully selfish or is a baby designed by God with inherent survival skills before she ever learns to communicate verbally? Are a child’s earliest demonstrations of need to be misconstrued as evil or are they a necessary defense mechanism placed there by the Creator?

Sometimes, questions like these are best left to the Creator!

Mark 10:15 (ESV) “Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Conclusion: With no understanding of their new context, a child must demonstrate need in order to survive. God knit them together this way. Children are NOT evil. They are learning by cause and effect.

Psalm 139:13-14 (ESV)

For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you, for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made**.
Wonderful are your works...

Let's look at another passage from the Psalms which, even though written by the same man, Catholics and Calvinists fail to use when seeking the harmony of God's message.

1. **"you knitted me together"** - In the famous words of the little boy, "God don't make no junk!" If God knits us together in the womb, yet we are evil babies from the womb, at what point in the knitting process does God give us a soul tainted by the stain of "original sin"? One of the greatest blasphemies of this false doctrine is the necessary conclusion that God must be guilty of knitting us with sin.
2. **"I am fearfully and wonderfully made"** – Q: Why would David believe he was born guilty of "original sin," yet praise God for knitting him together and claim that he was a "wonderfully made" baby?

Note: It should also be pointed out that David, the same one who authored Psalm 51:5 and 58:3, once had a child who was indeed conceived in a sinful context. Yet David did not mourn the child as if inherited sin had condemned him as evil. David actually looked forward to going where his dead child had gone. Read 2 Samuel 12:14-23. Q: Why would David want to go where his child had gone if his child was evil?

Conclusion: The same man who wrote, "I was brought forth in iniquity," also wrote, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Catholicism and Calvinism must be exposed for attempting to isolate one passage in order to prop up their false doctrine. Only through the harmony of the whole counsel of God can truth be fully seen.

Ezekiel 18:20

The **soul who sins shall die.**
The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father,
nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son.
The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself,
and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

Perhaps the most poignant passage identifying “original sin” as a false doctrine are the words of the prophet Ezekiel. Be sure to read the entire chapter, but to summarize notice the words of verse 20.

1. **“soul who sins shall die”** – As we saw in the opening passage (Romans 5:12), the guilt of sin falls upon the one who sins.
2. **“The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father”** – Wait! Read that again! Did the inspired prophet just say that sin is not inherited from the father?! Q: How is a baby guilty of “original sin” if sin is not passed along from father to son?

Note: As Moses was reminding the adults of Israel about their sinful past, he makes a very interesting declaration about the sinlessness of their children. Deuteronomy 1:39 (ESV) ...your children, **who today have no knowledge of good or evil**, they shall go in there. And to them I will give it, and they shall possess it. Q: How could the parents be guilty of sin, yet their children be pure of heart, if the children inherited original sin from their parents?

Conclusion: It's as if the Holy Spirit anticipated the false doctrine of “Original Sin” and decided to have the prophet Ezekiel write specific words to counteract the falsehood.

Genesis 4:7 (ESV)

***“If you do well, will you not be accepted?
And if you do not do well,
sin is crouching at the door.
Its desire is contrary to you,
but you must rule over it.”***

As we conclude, let's look at one more, rather profound passage that takes us back to almost the beginning of time.

FACT: If anyone should have inherited the unconditional curse of “original sin,” it should have been Adam's firstborn. But in spite of Cain being the first one on the list who should have been tainted, notice what God says to him about sin and his ability to govern it:

1. **“If you do well, will you not be accepted?”** - Cain not only had the potential of doing well, it's implied that he knew how to do so. Read the previous context.
2. **“sin is crouching at the door”** - While the original sin of Adam and Eve certainly did have a radical impact on the context of God's creation, it did not force others into the same condition. Notice where sin is positioned (“crouching at the door”). The rebellion of Eden is what put sin on the prowl.
3. **“Its desire is contrary to you”** - The deteriorating conditions of this world are “contrary” to our Divine nature. Study Romans 2:14-16. At our core, we are good. We are not the inheritors of “original sin.”
4. **“you must rule over it”** - If Adam's firstborn was capable of resisting the predatory nature of sin, we certainly are capable of the same!

Conclusion: We did not inherit Adam's “original sin,” we inherited God's “original nature.” Celebrate your core goodness. Remember, you can rule over the world's fallen context by being alert to the hunter who crouches at the door.

Conclusion

Perhaps the most damnable conclusion drawn from the false doctrine of “Original Sin” is that all humanity, though created in God’s image, is TOTALLY depraved. As we end this study, let’s examine one last passage that should put a final nail in the coffin of this blasphemous teaching.

In Romans 2, we are told that Gentiles were capable of obeying the Law without having the Law. According to the words of the Holy Spirit, they were capable of this because they had an inherent nature and conscience even though they were not part of the Jewish elect.

Note: In order to prop up their failed conclusions about “original sin,” Catholics and Calvinists will argue that these Gentiles obeyed the Law because they had been regenerated. However, upon deeper study of the text, it becomes clear that the passage never indicates they had been regenerated. In fact, Romans 2:14 indicates just the opposite. No, Gentiles were capable of keeping the Law without having the Law because they had an inherent nature associated with being created in the image of God.

Romans 2:14-16 (ESV)

*“For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, **by nature** do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law.*

*15 They show that the work of the law is **written on their hearts**, while **their conscience also bears witness**, and **their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them 16 on that day** when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.”*

1. **“by nature”** - The original language defines the word “nature” as:

Strong's Concordance:

physis: nature

Original Word: φύσις, εως, ἡ

Usage: nature, inherent nature, **origin**, birth.

5449 physis – properly, inner nature, the underlying constitution or make-up of someone (something).

In other words, the Gentiles were not TOTALLY Depraved, but rather had enough inherent nature from being created in the image of God to have a conscience. We do not inherit “original sin,” we inherit the purity of “original nature.”

2. **“written on their hearts”** – Notice that the Gentiles were not TOTALLY depraved, but had hearts which could yield to right and wrong.
3. **“their conscience also bears witness”** – Notice that the Gentiles were not TOTALLY depraved, but had a conscience which could bear witness
4. **“their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day”** – And, perhaps, most revealing of all is the declaration that their conflicting thoughts would be cited on the day God judges them. In other words, Gentiles, who did not even have the Law, were still liable, not because of Adam’s sin, but because they had a personal responsibility to address the conflicts between their good and evil thoughts.

It is for the same reason that man is “without excuse” in Romans 1:20. Q: Why are we without excuse?

A: Because we still have enough inherent nature from God to recognize the natural evidence even when we choose not to submit to it.

Conclusion: Man is not TOTALLY Depraved and man cannot blame God for his sin. The false doctrine of “Original Sin” is the devil’s allurements into spiritual irresponsibility and must be exposed as the foundation for apostasy!

