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Hamartiology

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Hamartology

The study of sin as it affects all of mankind

Definition of sin

- Is a TRANSGRESSION of the law
  - *Parabasis* is “overstepping” (Rom 4:15)
- Is a FAILURE TO CONFORM to God’s standard
  - *Hamartia* is to “miss the mark” (Rom 3:22-23)
- Is a PRINCIPLE within man
  - A natural desire to selfishness, egotism (Rom 7:14, 17-25)
- Is REBELLION against God
  - *Anomia* is “lawlessness” (1 Jn 3:4) as a “frame of mind” (Tit 2:14; Matt 24:12)
- Is WRONGFUL ACTS against God and man
  - *Asebeia*: “ungodliness” (Rom 1:18). Violate commands 1-4
  - *Adikia*: “unrighteousness”. Violate commands 5-10

1. Original Sin or Inherited Sin

- **Definition of Inherited Sin**
  - Did not begin with God, Who cannot sin (James 1:13)
  - Began in Satan (Ezekiel 28:15). In angels who followed him (2 Peter 2:4). In man (Genesis 3:6, Romans 5:12)
  - Resulted in the corruption of his whole nature.
  - The inherited nature to be independent from God (Eph 2:3)
- **Results of Inherited Sin**
  - Man is **depraved**
    - Everyone is not as depraved as he could be, nor will everyone participate in all sins; Even depraved men can do some good
    - The depravity is sufficient to disqualify every person from acceptance and merit before a Holy God and disables his spiritual discernment
  - Man has an **innate sin-nature**
    - Every part of man is affected: intellect (2 Cor. 4:4); conscience (1 Tim. 4:2); will (Rom. 1:28); heart (Eph. 4:18); and the total being (Rom. 1:18–3:20)
  - Man is **spiritually dead** (Eph 2:3) and to be eternally separated from God (Rev 20:11-15) unless a remedy is found in Christ

2. Imputation of Sin

Rom 5:12, Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned

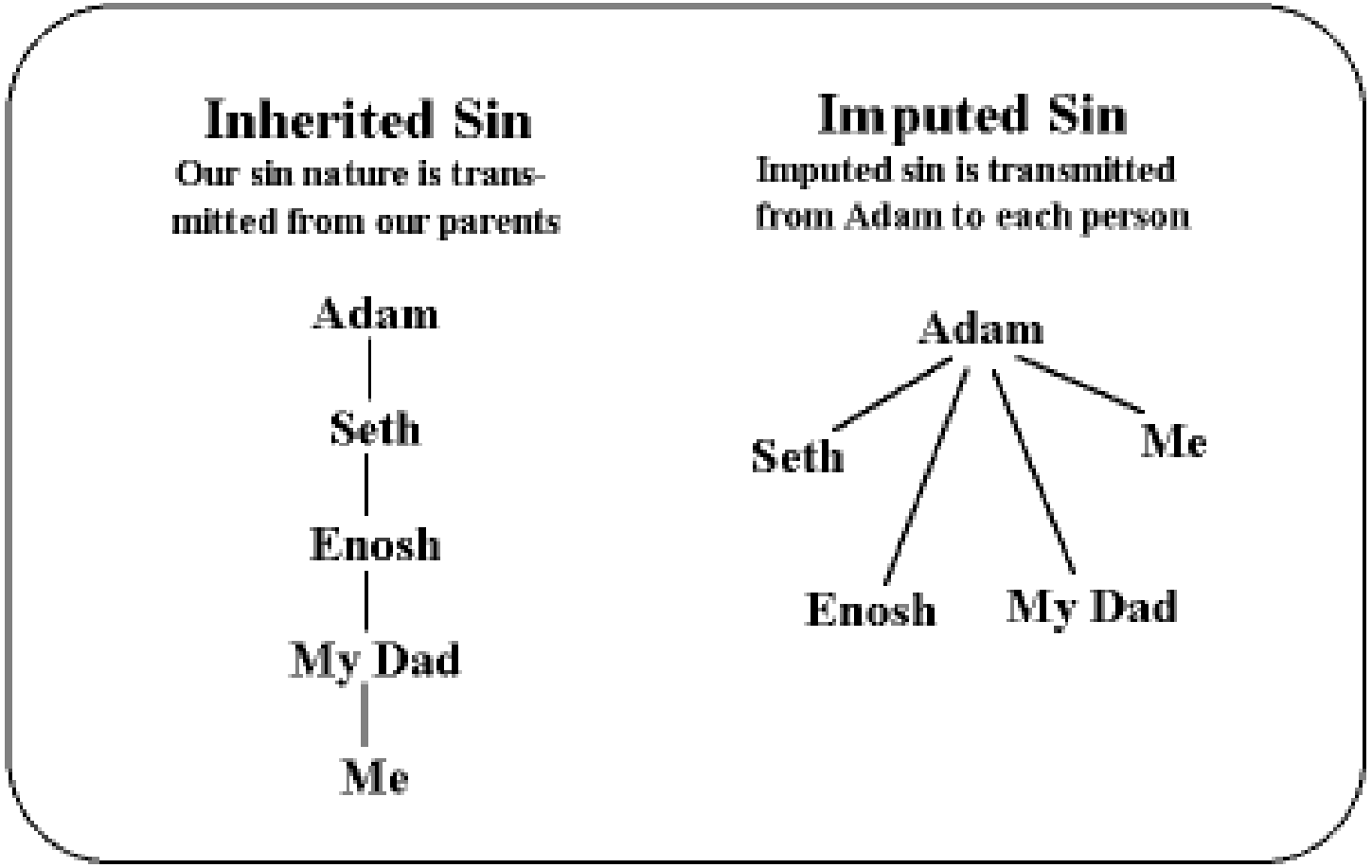
- Palagian view: every soul is created, therefore innocent at birth. Adam was merely a bad example. Man only guilty of sins committed. (Unitarian)
- Armenian view: Only when man choose to sin did God impute sin to him, but he has the power to not sin, esp. with the Spirit. (Methodists, Wesleyans, Pentecostals)
- Federal view:Adam is seen as the Federal Head or representative of the human race. All descendents share his fate under judicial judgment. (Presbyterians, Reform theology)
- Augustinian view: All are participants in Adam's sin, just as Levi (though not born yet) paid tithe to Melchizedek through Abraham (Heb 7:9-10). He was seminally present in Abraham. (Calvin, Luther, Strong)

Summary of views

Views	Rom 5:12	Adam	Humanity	Modern
Pelegian	Incur death when follow Adam's example	Sin affected Adam alone	No one affected by Adam's sin	Unitarians
Armenian	When all consent to Adam's sin then sin is imputed	Adam sinned and affected partially everyone	Depravity not total; All received corrupt nature, but not guilt	Methodists, Pentecostals, Wesleyans, Holiness groups
Federal	Sin is imputed because of Adam's sin	Adam alone sinned, but affected everyone	Depravity is total; sin and guilt are imputed	Presbyterians Covenant theologians
Augustine	Sin is imputed because of Adam's sin	Humanity sinned in Adam	Depravity is total; sin and guilt are imputed	Reformers and Calvinists

The result of **imputed sin** is **physical death**

Comparison of Inherited and Imputed Sin (adapted from Ryrie)



3. The Christian and Sin

Definition: Personal sin is any thought or attitude, act or failure to act, that violates God's standard of perfect holiness.

- The Conflict
  - **The world**:1 Jn 2:15-16– warned not to love the world nor things in the world, which are under Satan's control (5:19)
  - **The flesh**: Rom 7:17-20– the capacity for selfish satisfaction, lusts and mind perversion (Eph 2:3).
  - **The devil**: 1 Pet 5:8– a real person who seeks to destroy all that is God's, and called to resist him (James 4:7)
- The Provision
  - **The Word**: Psa 119:11– Protection is gained through wisdom and cleansing (Eph 5:26)
  - **The Intercession of Christ**: 1 Jn 2:1; Heb 7:25– Is seen as effective against Satan (Jn 17:15) and ultimate state (17:25)
  - **The Indwelling Spirit**: Acts 1:8; Eph 5:17;Gal 5:16– The empowering, filling and abiding presence empowers believer

Consequences when a Christian sins

- Quenching or blocking of our communication or intimacy with Christ (1 Thess 5:11; 1 Pet 3:7)
- Persistence in sin brings discipline from Christ (Heb 12:5-11); even to sickness and death (1 Corinthians 11:30; James 5:19,20; 1 John 5:16).
- Continued persistence in sin obligates discipline action from a local church (Mt 18:17; 1 Co 5:1)

Remedy when a believer sins:

- Confession: “agree with” God (not just “say the words”) 1 Jn 1:9—this is a sign of a true believer!
- Confession assumes a desire to change, ceasing to offend God and others, a sharing of the hurt! (2 Cor 7:9)
- By our Position in Christ all sins are already judged and justified, and our daily confession recognizes our continual dependence upon His blood sacrifice.
  - It is hard to enjoy what cost the blood of our Savior to forgive (Eph 1:6-7; Col 1:14)
- Humbling confession brings joy and filling (Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:22,23; Romans 8:13)