

## **Sermon: Original Sin** **-Embracing Truth: Exploring Key Doctrines**

### **Introduction**

As we gather today, we embark on a journey to explore the foundational doctrines that underpin our faith. Through this sermon series, we seek to gain a deeper understanding of these truths in order to fortify our faith and equip ourselves for meaningful conversations with those seeking answers. Today, we begin with the doctrine of original sin, a concept deeply rooted in Scripture and central to our understanding of humanity's fallen nature and the redemptive work of Christ.

### **Bible Texts:**

- **Romans 5:19-21**, "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

**Church Father Quote:** "By one man sin entered the world and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men." - St. Augustine.

### **Main Points:**

#### **1. Understanding the doctrine of Original Sin and Its Implications on Humanity**

The book of Romans (5:19-21) illuminates the profound impact of Adam's disobedience on the entire human race. The biblical truth reveals that through one man's transgression, sin entered the world, leading to a state of spiritual death and separation from God. This reality emphasizes the gravity of our fallen condition, as articulated in Psalm 51:5 and Ephesians 2:1-5. Original sin is not merely a historical event but a present reality that shapes our nature and predisposes us to sin.

### **What is Sin?**

#### **Biblical Definition:**

The word "sin" in the Bible is derived from the Hebrew term "chata" and the Greek term "hamartia", both of which carry the meaning of "missing the mark" or "falling short". In the biblical context, sin is an act of rebellion against God or a transgression of His laws and commands. It is the opposite of righteousness and is often described as a stain, pollution, or a debt that needs to be paid.

**Hebrew Word for Sin:** The Hebrew word for sin, "chata", is mentioned over 500 times in the Old Testament and is translated as "sin", "offense", "error", or "fault".

## **Greek Word for Sin:**

The Greek word for sin, "hamartia", appears 173 times in the New Testament and is translated as "sin", "fault", or "offense". Its root is "hamartano", which means "to miss the mark" or "to err". This word first appears in the New Testament in **Matthew 1:21, where it is used to describe Jesus as the one who will save His people from their sins.**

**In summary,** Sin is our brokenness, sin is our separation from God, the cause of our fractured world, and our need for healing, our need to be born again. Sin is Disobedience toward God in thoughts, words, feelings, and actions.

**How did sin enter the world?** We will read Genesis Chapter 3

Who sinned in this scripture? What was sinful?

What happened as a result of these sins? What relationships were hurt?

Where do you see sin in our world today?

## **Fallen Nature of Humankind**

Adam's sin has affected the human race - Romans 5:12. Because of this sin, we are born with a sinful nature that is hostile to God.

- **Psalm 51:5**, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."

- **Romans 8:7**, The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

- **Ephesians 2:1-5**, "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. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved."

## **Addressing Objections Raised Against this Doctrine.**

Despite the clarity of Scripture, objections to the doctrine of original sin abound in contemporary discourse. Some argue that it is unfair for all humanity to bear the consequences of Adam's sin. However, a careful examination reveals the justice and necessity of this doctrine in light of humanity's unbroken solidarity with Adam. By addressing objections with clarity and compassion, we can lead others to a deeper understanding of the profound implications of original sin.

“You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.”  
Isaiah 14:13-15

Question:

If God is perfect, how evil got itself into the world

Rebellion a cosmic problem  
Satan falls and 1/3 of the angels.

How did Satan turn evil?

By going from perfection to imperfection

By self-absorption, by taking his eyes away from God and onto himself.

By wanting to usurp God’s authority and the Son’s.

By wanting to be like God.

By showing neglect and contempt for God’s glory and intimacy

How do we protect ourselves from evil?

By remaining humble, with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

By surrendering the gifts and graces that make us prideful, our crown is back in Jesus’s feet.

1. Father of Lies: John 8:44 - "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

2. Children of the Evil One: Matthew 13:38 - "The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one."

3. Children of Hell: Matthew 23:15 - "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are."

4. Children of Darkness: Ephesians 5:8 - "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light."

5. Children of Disobedience: Ephesians 2:2 - "In which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient."

6. Children of Wrath: Ephesians 2:3 - "All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath."

## **2. Highlighting the Significance of Christ's Redemption.**

The doctrine of original sin underscores the desperate state of humanity, magnifying the need for a Savior. This sets the stage for the unparalleled significance of Christ's redemptive work. Through His sacrifice, Christ not only atoned for the sins of the world but also offered the gift of justification and spiritual renewal to all who believed. In embracing this truth, we are empowered to live as new creations, liberated from the bondage of sin and restored in fellowship with God.

### **What is Redemption?**

Where have you heard the word Redemption before? Redemption: The state of being redeemed; deliverance from sin through Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

**SIN** affected the relationship between God and Human Beings. To Restore, Reconcile and renew this relationship God sent His son Jesus into the world to make things right.

### **Important Points: Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. "Why Do People Go To Hell?"**

Ephesians 1:7 - "In him, we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

Romans 5:6-9 - Since we have now been justified by his blood (Atonement- Making things right with God)

Romans 6: 1-11: Paul says that Christ, through his death, destroyed the power of sin. Through Christ's resurrection, Christ destroyed the power of death. Paul says that we are baptized into Christ's death so that we can share in Christ's resurrection.

1 Peter 2:24- Not only did Jesus save us from our sins by dying on the cross, but Jesus also saved us for a life of righteousness.

- Christ offers us Eternal Life - John - 3: 16,
- Christ gives us new spiritual life - 2 Corinthians 5: 17
- Christ gives us victory over Sin - 1 Corinthians 15 :57
- Christ gives us the Holy Spirit - John 16:7-13

### **Practical Applications for Today's Life Challenges:**

As described in Romans 8:7, the doctrine of original sin teaches that human nature is corrupted by sin and tends to resist God's authority. Here are three practical applications of this doctrine for our daily lives.

A. Awareness of our innate sinful nature: Recognizing the reality of original sin helps us understand that our natural inclinations may lead us away from God's will. This awareness can humble us, leading to a greater reliance on God's grace and a deeper understanding of our need for redemption through Jesus Christ.

B. Striving for transformation and renewal: Understanding our inherent inclination toward sin can motivate us to actively pursue spiritual growth and transformation. By seeking to be renewed in our minds and hearts through prayer, studying Scripture, and practicing spiritual disciplines, we can align our lives more closely with God's purposes and resist the influence of our sinful nature.

C. Cultivating empathy and grace toward others: Recognizing the universal presence of original sin can foster compassion and forgiveness toward others who struggle with the same sinful tendencies. By extending grace and understanding to others, we reflect God's love and mercy, demonstrating the transformative power of God's grace in our interactions with those around us.

### **Conclusion:**

In summary, the doctrine of original sin can inform our daily lives by prompting us to acknowledge our inherent sinful nature, pursue personal transformation, and extend empathy and grace to others.

As we conclude today's exploration of the doctrine of original sin, let us remember that our faith is built on unshakable truths revealed in God's Word.

May this understanding deepen our awe of God's grace and lead us to walk in humility, extending the hope of redemption to a world in desperate need of God's mercy.

### **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we humbly come before You, acknowledging our fallen nature and the profound need for Your redemptive work in our lives. Grant us wisdom and discernment as we

navigate conversations about our faith and may the truth of Christ's redemption transform our hearts and empower us to extend Your love to a broken world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Benediction:**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forevermore. Amen.