

“THE SHATTERED IMAGE OF GOD IN MAN” – PART II

Preface: Man is created in the image of God, yet the image was shattered in the Fall. Sin had entered into mankind when Adam chose to disobey God and all subsequent generations of men share the guilt of Adam’s sin and the resultant corruption of their nature. Though all men continue to bear the image of God, it is distorted and diminished to a considerable degree. All men are both bearers of God’s image and carriers of the taint of Adam’s sin.

I. Sin and the Consequences of the Fall

R. C. Sproul writes about sin in his book *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith*:

“Sin can be pictured as an archer releasing an arrow from his bow and missing the target...the simplest biblical definition of sin is ‘to miss the mark’...the mark...of God’s law. God’s law expresses His own righteousness and the ultimate standard for our behavior. When we miss achieving this standard, we sin.”

A. Read the following Scriptures and comment on what each explains regarding sin:

1. Romans 3:23

2. Psalm 51:5

3. Isaiah 64:6

4. Hosea 6:7

5. Romans 5:12

6. Romans 3:10-18

B. An important biblical truth regarding the consequences of Adam’s fall is the doctrine of *original sin*. Returning to Sproul’s book, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith*, he explains:

*“Original sin does not refer primarily to the first or original sin committed by Adam and Eve. Original sin refers to the *result* of the first sin — the corruption of the human race. Original sin refers to the fallen condition in which we are born.”*

What does a believer's life look like when he avails himself of the ordained means of grace?
(church attendance, prayer, bible study, fellowship, tithing, etc.) (Read Galatians 5:22-23)

- D. The old sin nature in man is referred to in Scripture as *the flesh*. Though the word 'flesh' more often than not means *the physical body* of a creature (or man), the context of each passage is the key to understanding which meaning is intended. Read the following verses and comment on what is explained regarding *the flesh*.

Galatians 4:23

Galatians 4:29

Galatians 5:11-21

- E. How did the consensus predominant during the establishment of the early American Republic (that men are indeed fallen and prone to sin) influence the form our early Republic's government took?

How has the repudiation of *original sin* affected education in America?

- F. What is the ultimate consequence of man's sin? (Read Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:23.)

What hope is there for man if all men are truly sinners? (Read Acts 13:37-39; 48)

If regenerate man continues to struggle with sinful inclinations, what hope is there that he will finally be saved? (Read Phil. 1:6; Eph. 4:17-24.)