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Section: Doctrine of Sin

**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q35. How did Adam and Eve sin?**

Satan tempted and deceived Eve to disobey God by eating the forbidden fruit, then she gave it to Adam, and he also disobeyed God. Adam and Eve did not fully trust God’s word, so they were vulnerable to temptation.

**Q36. Why does Adam’s sin affect everyone else?**

God chose Adam to act as the representative of the entire human race. With the test that God set before Adam, He was testing the whole of mankind. In this, Adam accurately represented us.

* **Scripture Reading:**

Genesis 2:15 - Genesis 3:13

* **Satan tempted and deceived Eve to disobey God**

Genesis 3:1-6

**2 Corinthians 11:3** But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

**1 Timothy 2:14** … Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived …

* **Know and keep sound doctrine**

In Genesis 3:1 Satan said, “… Did God actually say, …?”

False teachers (or those they have convinced of their falsehood amongst our peers, in our families, etc.) use the same tactic with which Satan was successful in the garden with Eve.

The Apostles warned the New Testament Christians not to entertain or welcome false teaching in their lives.

**2 John 1:10-11** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

We need to know sound doctrine and not accept teaching that contradicts it.

* **By eating the forbidden fruit**

**Genesis 2:16-17**And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

* **Then she gave it to Adam, and he also disobeyed God**

**Genesis 3:6**So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

* **Adam and Eve did not fully trust God’s word, so they were vulnerable to temptation**

There was a lack of faith, a lack of trust in our great God, and this made them vulnerable to temptation. They should have boldly, accurately, swiftly rebuked Satan, and sent him away. But they didn’t; the truths that God stated to Adam, and the moral law they had written on their hearts, were not honored. When a crafty false teacher came with a twisting of God’s truths, they abandoned what was right for what was wrong.

In this, we need to let this be a critical lesson to us. We cannot let falsehood lead us away from rightly understanding and keeping with God’s truths in Scripture. We must trust God and know His truths.

**Q36. Why does Adam’s sin affect everyone else?**

God chose Adam to act as the representative of the entire human race. With the test that God set before Adam, He was testing the whole of mankind. In this, Adam accurately represented us.

* **The first instance of Representative Headship (Federal Headship) in the redemptive story**

Adam’s Federal Headship over all of mankind:

**1 Corinthians 15:22** … in Adam all die …

**Romans 5:10-19**

In Romans 5, Paul makes the following observations about Adam:

… sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin … (v. 12)

… many died through one man's trespass … (v. 15)

… one trespass led to condemnation for all men … (v. 18)

… by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners … (v. 19)

**Romans 5:12** 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

Adam did not act for himself alone; He acted also for Eve and all who would naturally descend from him.

* **Sin came into the world through one man**

By eating of the fruit, Adam plunged himself, Eve, and all who come after them into sin.

* **And death through sin**

The death we read about here as a consequence for Adam’s sin is both spiritual death and the reality of impending physical death.

* **And so death spread to all men because all sinned**

This statement is saying, precisely, that the consequences of Adam’s sin (spiritual death, impending physical death, and so on) are a reality for mankind *because in Adam we all sinned*. When Adam sinned as our representative, his sin was counted, or credited, to us. God brings that judgment—that consequence—on all of us, because Adam represented all of us.

Adam was legally appointed by God. God chose Adam, and God decreed this system.

* **Answering Objections**

A person may be tempted to offer an objection to this doctrine. He may say, “That’s not fair. It’s not fair that I should be born into the world under condemnation, spiritually dead, suffering, and headed to bodily death, because of what somebody else has done. That’s not fair!”

But we must be careful; we must not accuse God of being unrighteous. And, we must not reject the teaching of His word because it doesn’t square-up with our own opinion of how God should do things.

What do we say to the objection of, “That’s not fair!”?

1) Remember who we are and remember who God is. Who are you, oh man—created man?

**Romans 9:20** (HCSB) … But who are you, a mere man, to talk back to God?

Let us humble ourselves in the truth of the Lord.

2) We need to remember that Adam was our fair and just representative.

R.C. Sproul made this point well when he said, “At no time in all of human history have we been more accurately represented than in the Garden of Eden. To be sure of this, we did not choose our representative there. Our representative was chosen for us. The one who chose our representative was almighty God.”

3) Fallen man adds to our guilt by the sins we commit in the flesh.

It is right, by God’s decree, that we are all children of wrath because of Adam. Our fall in Adam is enough to condemn a person to hell forever. As we have seen, Adam really did represent us, and we really are guilty because of his failure. An example of this is seen in:

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

From the moment of our conception, we are guilty in sin. This is a real guilt and, apart from regeneration unto saving faith in Christ, it is enough to condemn a person to hell forever.

But add to that what Paul has already taught in Romans, namely, all of us are also sinners by choice! And our own personal sins have added to our guilt.

Adam led the rebellion against God, but every one of us has willfully, without the need of any outside influence, affirmed Adam’s rebellion against God and His law.

4) God’s wisdom in arranging His moral government on this representative principle, this Federal Headship principle, is the only way by which we can be saved by one Man’s righteousness!

Praise God He chose from the beginning to deal with mankind through representation.

We can be justified and saved by being connected to the second Adam, the God-man, Jesus Christ. We can rest in Him.

Jesus is referred to, implicitly and explicitly, as the second Adam, or last Adam, in Scripture.

**1 Corinthians 15:45** Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

Jesus is the life-giving Spirit, and here He is explicitly called the last Adam. He is the Second and the Last Federal Head.

Adam’s life was credited to us. But better yet, Jesus’ obedience and record (His life), under this system, is credited to those who receive saving grace.

By grace alone, through faith alone, Jesus becomes our new, unchanging, eternal representative—our new Federal Head.

* **Additional Points**
* **Type & Antitype**

**Romans 5:14 “**was a type of the one who was to come.”

This Federal Headship doctrine has two Federal Heads. And we see here in this verse Adam was a type of the one who was to come. That word “type” is very important. Theologically, there are ***types***and***antitypes***. The ***type*** is the thing foreshadowing something to come—the ***antitype***. (We could use the word proto-type in place of type to help us.)

So, Adam was a type, the proto-type, of the one who was to come—the better, unfailing Federal Head, Jesus Christ. There are only two Federal Heads *in this way*. As we saw, in 1 Corinthians 15:45, Paul affirms this by referring to Jesus as "the last Adam."

**AW Pink:** “There been but two federal heads: Adam and Christ, with each of whom God entered into a covenant. Each of them acted on behalf of others, each legally represented as definite people, so much so that all whom they represented were regarded by God as being in them. Adam represented the whole human race; Christ represented all those whom the Father had, in His eternal counsels, given to Him.”

**Romans 5:17-19** For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 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.

Redemption from the fall of Adam is only a reality because of the perfection of the second and final Adam, the one God-man, Jesus Christ. By this, we receive grace and the free gift of Christ’s imputed righteousness!

* **Honoring what God is saying: What does each “all” mean?**

**Romans 5:18** Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

When Scripture uses the word “all,” we need to be very careful to let the full testimony of Scripture help us understand who the “all” is.

Just like you and I use it, “all” does not always mean “every single person.” It can mean that, but it often times does not.

This verse affirms what we have been learning here. The correct understanding of this verse reads this way: “one trespass led to condemnation for *every person who was represented by Adam*, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for *every person who is subsequently represented by, and united to, Christ.*”

Only those who are transferred to Christ’s Federal Headship are saved.