

The Doctrine of Sin

# WHAT IS OUR PROBLEM?

*Remember what sin is: fundamental independence from God; the thing in me that says, "I can do without God. I don't need Him." The hatred of the world has its source there. ...According to the Bible, sin is doing without God. Sin is not wrong doing; it is wrong being, deliberate and emphatic independence from God. That may sound remote and far away from us, but in individual experience it is best put in the terms of "my claim to my right to myself."* —Oswald Chambers, *Biblical Ethics*

## WHAT IS WRONG WITH OUR WORLD?

All of us sense that something is wrong with our world. *Anger. Division. Deception. Lying. Stealing. Crime. Corruption. Disease. Disasters. Conflict. Violence. Terror. War. Death.*

People generally look for the solution in one of four areas:

1. **Political.** We just need the right leader.
2. **Economic.** We just need a secure income.
3. **Psychological.** We just need good mental health.
4. **Educational.** We just need a better education.

Though these issues are certainly important, none of them can change the reality that our world is impacted by disease, disaster, and death...and that something seems desperately wrong with the human heart.

## THE FALL OF MANKIND (Genesis 3)

God created a perfect world. He created mankind in His image to reflect His glory and to enjoy and rule over His creation. But God also gave our first parents a choice.

*And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 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." (Gen. 2:16-17)*

Would they trust His goodness and obey Him or would they go their own way? Genesis 3 gives us the answer...

*It is hardly too much to say that this chapter (Genesis 3) is the pivot of the Bible. ...With the exception of the fact of Creation, we have here the record of the most important and far-reaching event in the world's history—the entrance of sin.* —W.H. Griffith Thomas

*Physical problems, spiritual problems, moral problems, social problems, economic problems, political problems, all the problems in the universe have their origin in the events of this historic account [Gen. 3].* —John MacArthur, Jr.

In the early 1900's, the British newspaper, *The Times*, reportedly sent out an inquiry to several famous authors asking the question, "What is wrong with our world today?" They received the following reply:

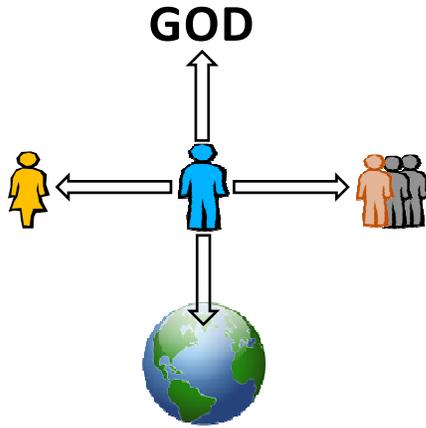
Dear Sir, I am.  
Yours, G.K. Chesterton

*Literally, a death thou shalt die; or, dying thou shalt die. Thou shalt not only die spiritually, by losing the life of God, but from that moment thou shalt become mortal, and shalt continue in a dying state till thou die.*

—Adam Clarke (1762-1832)

**What is our problem? SIN which has a great COST...**

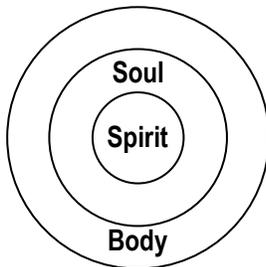
**1. C \_\_\_\_\_ OF OUR NATURE.**



**2. O \_\_\_\_\_ IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS.**

*“I will greatly increase your labor pains; with pain you will give birth to children. You will want to control your husband, but he will dominate you.” (Genesis 3:16, NET Bible)*

**3. S \_\_\_\_\_ FROM GOD.**



*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*  
—Ephesians 2:1-3

**4. T \_\_\_\_\_ TO OUR WORLD.**

*“Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.” (Gen. 3:17b-19)*

*Sin is essentially a departure from God.* —Martin Luther

*Sin is self-coronation.*  
—Vincent Taylor

The Bible paints an honest, sobering view of us in our sin.

**We are corrupt and do not seek God** (Psalm 14:1-3).

**We are born in sin** (Psalm 51:5).

**We have all gone our own way** (Isaiah 53:6).

**We have a deceitful and wicked heart** (Jeremiah 17:9).

**We all sin and fall short of God’s glory** (Romans 3:23).

**We are dead in sin, deceived by Satan, following our lusts, and under wrath** (Eph. 2:1-3).

**We deceive ourselves by saying we have no sin and have not sinned** (1 John 1:8, 10).

*The rule of love founded in paradise is replaced by struggle, tyranny, domination, and manipulation.* —Susan T. Foh

*Man’s basic psychosis is his separation from God carried into his own personality as a separation from himself. Thus we have self-deception. All men are liars, but, most importantly, each man lies to himself. The greatest falsehood is not lying to other men but to ourselves.*

—Francis Schaeffer

*In the midst of the curse passage, a message of hope shone forth—the woman’s offspring called “He” is Christ, who will one day defeat the Serpent. Satan could only “bruise” Christ’s heel, while Christ will crush Satan’s head.*

—John MacArthur, Jr.