

Hamartiology

Hamartiology is the study of sin, its nature, origin, and effects.

Nature of Sin

- Sin is anything in a creature that does not express or is in opposition to the holy character of God (Ps. 51:4; Rom. 3:23; 8:7).
- There are several words used for sin
 - Sin – sin against a standard (missing the mark)
 - Trespass – sin against a boundary (overstepping the boundary)
 - Transgression – sin against a person (breaking a covenant)
 - Iniquity – wickedness of sin (includes guilt and consequences)
- Humans are sinful by nature and thus commit sins (Matt. 7:15-20; Mark 7:17-23; James 3:11-12)

Origin of Sin

- Man was created without sin, and sin entered the human race when Adam disobeyed God in the garden of Eden (Gen. 1:31; 3:6; Rom. 5:12).
- Sin is imputed in that God attributed Adam's sin to the entire human race (Rom. 3:9; 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:22).
 - This judicial imputation leaves every person guilty before God (Rom. 5:16; 1 Cor. 11:32).
 - As a result of imputed sin, every person is under condemnation (Rom. 3:9; 5:16-18; Gal. 3:22).
 - Through belief in the finished work of Jesus Christ this condemnation is removed (John 3:36; Rom. 8:1).
- Sin is inherited in that all people are born into a sinful state (Ps. 58:3; Eph. 2:3).
 - Every person is born totally depraved (Ps. 51:5; Jer. 17:9).
 - No person has an innate ability to please God (Ps. 14:1; 143:2; Isa. 64:6; Rom. 7:18).

Effects of Sin

- Sin affects every aspect of the person, including the will (Gen. 6:5; John 1:13; 8:44; Romans 7:18; 9:16).
- The sin nature is transmitted through natural generation (Gen. 4:1; Ps. 51:5).
- The saved will be delivered from this sinful nature at the moment of glorification (Rom. 7:24-25; 8:23; 1 Cor. 15:42-44; 51-57).
- All people are sinners in that they commit sins (Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 3:23).
- There is punishment associated with sin (Gen. 4:10-13; Matt. 25:46; 2 Pet 2:9). The eternal punishment for sin was laid upon Jesus Christ on the cross (Isa. 53:4-6).
- The image of God that is present in man was defaced, but not lost, after the fall of man (Gen. 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; James 3:9). Through regeneration and sanctification, the believer is renewed according to the image of God (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:10).

Summary

- Sin is anything short of the glory (goodness) of God.
- Every person is a sinner who commits sins.
- Being a sinner is based upon one's nature, not just one's actions.
- Jesus died for who we are as well as what we have done.
- Sin affects every part of who we are.
- No person can rescue himself from the effects of sin.
- One day, the saved will be ultimately and finally delivered from sin.
- Hamartiology is a subset of theology.