

The Doctrines of Satan and Sin

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WE BELIEVE in the existence of Satan and his angels, who were created good, but rebelled against God and were cast down from heaven to earth, awaiting everlasting punishment in the Lake of Fire, having already been defeated by and subjected to Jesus Christ.

Levi will talk later about Satan's defeat on the Cross and ultimate destination in the Lake of Fire.

Our point here is that all the angels were created good because they were created by a good God in order to worship and serve Him. Some of them rebelled and were cast out of heaven down to earth (Revelation 12:3-12, Luke 10:18, Isaiah 14:12-16, Ezekiel 28:12-17). See the booklet *Light Shines Into Darkness: Scripture Interpreting the Spiritual Drama of Genesis 1:2-3* for more details (ProjectOne28.com).

WE BELIEVE... that our first parents sinned by rebelling against God's revealed will and thereby incurred God's righteous judgment, both physical and spiritual death; that because of Adam's disobedience, all human beings were constituted sinners; that as a result, all human beings are born spiritually dead in sin, alienated from the life of God, slaves to sin, unable to submit to God apart from grace, by nature children of wrath.

Sin means to "miss the mark." In Adam's case, the mark was, "Eat all the trees except *that* one." He missed it, not by accident, but by specifically and intentionally disobeying God. They were told that the very day they ate of that tree they would die (Gen. 2:17). Physically, Adam didn't die for another nine hundred and some years, but they died spiritually (were separated from the life of God) the very moment they disobeyed God (Isa. 59:2).

Adam's offspring inherited his sinful nature and thus all people are born spiritually dead (separated from the life of God). Just as a child inherits his parents DNA, we inherited Adam's spiritual deadness (Rom. 5:18-19, Ps. 51:5, Heb. 7:9-10).

John 8:34 (cf. Rom. 6:16, Tit. 3:3, 2 Pet. 2:19)

"Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."

"For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23). Unbelievers, by nature, do not do anything from faith unto the glory of God. Therefore, everything unbelievers do is sin. Even the good they do is sin. Unbelievers do some good things because it was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil from which Adam ate. But Isaiah says even our most "righteous" deeds are like filthy rags (64:6) – tainted by unbelief and incomplete dependence upon God and inaccurate goals. Unbelievers always miss the mark.

By nature we love and prefer darkness over light (John 3:19-21)

John 6:63 (lit.)“... the flesh profits absolutely nothing....”

John 15:5 (lit.) “... apart from Me, you can do absolutely nothing.”

Paul summarizes our sinful condition apart from Christ in Ephesians:

“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” (2:1-3).

We were by nature children of wrath, fully deserving the wrath of God. But because of God’s love and by His grace, His wrath towards us was satisfied in Christ. Where then can we boast or what do we have to boast about? We have but one place to boast. As Paul says, “I am what I am by the grace of God” (1 Cor. 15:10).

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8-9).