

Salvation - So Great In View of Sin

The wonders of salvation and its greatness are best seen in the awfulness of sin.

Sin's Beginnings

Both Satan and man were created perfect.

- Satan – Ezekiel 28:15
- Man – Genesis 1:26, Ezek. 7:29

Satan's rebellion - Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:14 – "I will be like the most High"

Man's rebellion – Genesis 3:5 – Man ate the fruit to 'open their eyes', to 'be as gods.'

What right has the creation to rebel against the creator? – Jeremiah 18:1-6

- God made man from the dust of the ground – Genesis 2:7
- God prepared a garden for man, fit to meet his every need – Genesis 2:8
- In Him we live and move and have our being – Acts 17:28

Genesis 3:1 – "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

What did this question imply to Eve? [That God was withholding some good thing from them.](#)

The purpose of the question was to break down man's perfect confidence in and dependence upon his Creator. Instead of trusting in God, the woman began to reason about his command. Adam and Eve desired to be as God and not need to depend upon Him. They ate the fruit and broke God's command (sinned). By that simple act the creation had rebelled against the Creator and departed from his state of dependence on Him. In that one act he had expressed a desire to maintain an existence independent of his Creator.

To depend upon self and refuse to depend upon God alone is to refuse to honor and glorify Him as God. As a result, man has gloried in himself and in his own works. See Daniel 4:30.

The **essence of sin** is independence of God and dependence upon self. This manifests itself in failure to glorify God and in glorification of self. Man lives by his own will instead of being guided by the will of God.

Psalms 119:160 – 'The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.' – 1 John 3:4 - Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. – God's law is the standard; rebellion against the law is sin.

The Outward Expression of Sin

All acts which are called sins are just the expression and evidence of an inward nature that is independent of God. All kinds of sins are due to a failure on the part of man to maintain his rightful attitude towards God.

Romans 1:21, 22, 28-32 – Because although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, ... , And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to

parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Romans 14:23 – Whatsoever is not of [faith](#) is sin

Faith is dependence upon God. All that is not dependence upon God is sin. This means that even things which seem to be good might be sin. Many people think only immoralities are sin. That is not true. The stronghold of sin is not the den of vice. It's the place of [self-righteousness](#). Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the Jews, "Tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you." (Matthew 21:31)

Ecc 7:16 – "be not righteous over much" – Protect yourself from self-righteousness!

Why is it that these people are more likely to enter the kingdom of God before the chief priest? [People who understand they are sinners may feel a greater sense of need for God and dependence upon Him. The self-righteous feel no such need of God. They are sufficient in themselves. They depend upon themselves and are far away from God.](#)

Man is a Sinner by Nature

Romans 8:7 – Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, *nor indeed can be.* – The mind, *from birth*, is not subject to the law of God.

After Adam sinned, he was all together a different being from when he was created. He became a sinner. Adam was the only man to become a sinner by sinning. All other people are [born sinners](#).

Children are born in Adam's likeness – Genesis 5:3

Is this an obvious fact being stated, or something else? Contrast this verse with Genesis 2:6 to help understand. [Obviously God is not pointing out that Adam and Eve's child looked like them physically. God was pointing out that their child inherited a sinful nature previously unknown in man.](#)

Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin ...even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam – Romans 5:12,14

Man is conceived in sin – Psalms 51:5

Because man has a sinful nature, he cannot help but sin – Romans 3:23

Sin Is Against God

Don't neglect repentance 1st toward God by placing improper emphasis upon man's social relationships.

Recall the in 2 Samuel when King David commits adultery with Bathsheba.

Who was David's sin (adultery, etc.) most apparent toward? [Uriah the Hittite \(2 Samuel 11:3\)](#)

Note King David's Confession – Psalms 51:4

Sin in its essence is independence of God and therefore is against God. If you return to the right attitude toward God, then your [social relationships](#) will become right as effect follows cause.

Salvation addresses the problem of sin. "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim 1:15)