

Doctrinal Statement

Sin

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Sin is mankind's desire to be like God by positioning themselves as the center and source of life, wisdom, and choices (James 1:14-15). Adam and Eve had the potential to live in perfect union with God but sinned, marring God's creation with their own autonomous, illegitimate, and underdeveloped ability to bring about order and rule as vice regents (Gen. 3:5,22). Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden and lost access to the tree of life, the antidote (Gen. 3:23-34). As a result, all humanity has become subject to death, both physical and spiritual (Gen. 3:19, 1 Cor. 15:21-22; Eph. 2:1). I believe Adam and Eve's relationship to God and sin is an archetype of all humanity (Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:21, 45-49) and reveals the tainted effects of sin and the inability for humanity to restore relationship with God (Gen. 6:5; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 John 1:8). The Bible reveals that all people (except Jesus) have individually sinned and thereby incurred through their own action the same personal guilt as Adam and Eve (Rom. 3:23, Deut. 1:39).

Along with severing perfect communion with God, sin has caused people to put idols in God's place (Ex. 20:3-6; 1 Cor. 10:14). This self-serving idolatry can take on the form of money, lust, pride, power (1 John 2:15-16). As humans sin, just like Adam and Eve, they abrogate their own vocation, although an aspect of God's image is retained (Gen. 9:6), by giving power and authority to nondivine and nonhuman forces, which run rampant, spoil human lives, ravage the beautiful creation, and do their best to turn God's world into a hell (Eph. 2:1-3, John 10:10). No sin is any less sinful than any other (Matt. 5:27-28; James 2:10), yet some sins are qualitatively worse and bear a greater consequences here on earth than others (Matt. 18:6; Mark 3:29; John 19:11). The only remedy for sin is a new heart and new nature, that only comes through the regenerating faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus (Ezek. 36:26-27; John 3:1-21).