

## Christian Doctrine

### Sin (Part 2)

#### How Did Sin Begin?

#### ***The Origin of Sin***

The first instance of sin happened with the pride and fall of the angel Lucifer (Is. 14:12-19). However, in our study of sin, we will focus on the sin of mankind. The beginning of sin in the human race is recorded in Genesis chapters 2-3. Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden and able to enjoy the various fruits that grew on the trees there. However, there was one exception. God told Adam that he was not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam was told that eating of that tree would result in death (Gen. 2:8-17). A serpent (Satan) tempted Eve to eat of the forbidden tree. After doubting God's warning, Eve and Adam both ate of the tree. This was the first act of sin by mankind (Gen. 3:1-6).

#### ***Why Did Adam and Eve Sin?***

Several elements came into play in the sin of Adam and Eve which are typical of all sin:

- Listening to someone (or something) else, rather than trusting God (Gen. 3:1; note Num. 20:12).
- Doubting God's Word (thinking that what God says is not important – Gen. 3:4; note Rom. 1:25).
- Being more concerned about what we want rather than what God wants for us. This is pride (they “wanted to be like God” - Gen. 3:5).
- Giving in to the lust of the flesh (“the tree was good for food”), lust of the eyes (“it was pleasant to the eyes”), and/or pride of life (“a tree desirable to make one wise”) (Gen. 3:6).
- Believing there will be no consequences (Gen. 3:4).

#### ***Did God Create Sin?***

We must understand that God can't be blamed for sin. God did created mankind with the ability to choose right and wrong, but it was mankind's willful choice to do wrong that resulted in sin. Therefore, it is mankind that is guilty for bringing sin into the world (James 1:13; Job 34:10).

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