

Christian Doctrine

Sin (Part 3)

How Did Adam's Sin Affect Us?

Adam's Sin Made Us All "Sinners"

Romans 5:12 says that "just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned." This verse shows us that when Adam sinned, God thought of all of us as having sinned. Adam represented all of mankind since he was the first person created. We were all, in a sense, "in Adam" when he sinned. Thus, his guilt is our guilt and the consequences he faced we have to face (note **Rom. 5:18-19**).

Mankind's Very Nature Became Depraved

With the fall of Adam, not only was mankind guilty of sinning, but mankind's very nature became sinful (**Eph. 2:3**). Mankind now had a desire and tendency to sin. The human race became "depraved," which means that man's entire being became sinful. This does not mean that all people are as bad as they could be, but it does mean that sin has affected every aspect of who we are (**Jer. 17:9; Rom. 1:28; Rom. 3:10-18; II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 4:18**). This "sin nature" is passed down from our parents (**Ps. 51:5**) and affects all people (**Rom. 3:23**).

Other Consequences

Additional consequences to mankind's fall into sin include:

- Death affected everyone. This included both physical death (**Rom. 5:13-14; 6:23**) and spiritual death (**Eph. 2:1**).
- Mankind's fellowship and relationship with God was ruined (Adam and Eve hid from God because of their guilt. Note **Gen. 3:8**).
- Pain and suffering were brought into the world (**Gen. 3:16-19**).
- The environment was affected in a negative way (**Gen. 3:17-18; Rom. 8:21-22**).

The effects of Adam's sin clearly left mankind in a hopeless situation. Only by understanding this are we able to grasp the need of redemption offered through the blood of Christ.