

Hamartiology (Part 2)

Rocky Wyatt | March 25, 2018

Elements of Original Sin

Imputed Guilt

Inherited Pollution/Corruption

Total Depravity

Total Inability



Imputed Guilt

The context shows that Paul is not talking about actual sins that people commit every day of their lives, for the entire paragraph (Rom. 5:12–21) is taken up with the comparison between Adam and Christ. And when Paul says, “so [..., “thus, in this way”; that is, through Adam’s sin] death spread to all men because all men sinned,” he is saying that through the sin of Adam “all men sinned.”



Grudem

Imputed Guilt

Romans 5:13–14

...for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

Here Paul points out that from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, people did not have God's written laws. Though their sins were "not counted" (as infractions of the law), they still died. The fact that they died is very good proof that God counted people guilty on the basis of Adam's sin. Grudem



Imputed Guilt

Romans 5:18–19

So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.



Imputed Guilt - Conclusion

All members of the human race were represented by Adam in the time of testing in the Garden of Eden. As our representative, Adam sinned, and God counted us guilty as well as Adam. Grudem

Impute - "to think of as belonging to someone, and therefore to cause it to belong to that person." Grudem

Imputation – A forensic term that denotes the reckoning or placing to a person's account the merit or guilt that belongs to him on the basis of his personal performance or of that of his federal head." A. Cairns



Inherited Pollution / Corruption

This inherited sinful nature is sometimes simply called “original sin” and sometimes more precisely called “original pollution.” I have used instead the term “inherited corruption” because it seems to express more clearly the specific idea in view. Grudem



Inherited Pollution / Corruption

Psalm 51:1–5

Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;
According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my
transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And
cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, And
my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have
sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are
justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother
conceived me.



Inherited Pollution / Corruption

Psalms 58:3

The wicked are estranged from the womb; These who speak lies go astray from birth.

Ephesians 2:3

Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.



Inherited Pollution / Corruption

Our natures totally lack spiritual good before God.
Grudem

Romans 7:18

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

Titus 1:15

To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.



Inherited Pollution / Corruption

Our natures totally lack spiritual good before God.
Grudem

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is more deceitful than all else And is
desperately sick; Who can understand it?



Inherited Pollution / Corruption

In Our Actions We Are Totally Unable to Do Spiritual Good Before God (Grudem)

Romans 8:8

...and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

John 15:5

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.



Inherited Pollution / Corruption

In Our Actions We Are Totally Unable to Do Spiritual Good Before God (Grudem)

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.



Inherited Pollution / Corruption

In Our Actions We Are Totally Unable to Do Spiritual Good Before God (Grudem)

Ephesians 2:1–2

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.



Inherited Pollution / Corruption

In Our Actions We Are Totally Unable to Do Spiritual Good Before God (Grudem)

Isaiah 64:6

For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.



Inherited Pollution / Corruption

In Our Actions We Are Totally Unable to Do Spiritual Good Before God (Grudem)

Romans 3:9–20

...as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."



Total Depravity - Definition

“...man in his raw, natural state as he comes from the womb is morally and spiritually corrupt in disposition and character. Every part of his being—his mind, his will, his emotions, his affections, his conscience, his body—has been affected by sin (this is what is meant by the doctrine of total depravity). His understanding is darkened, his mind is at enmity with God, his will to act is slave to his darkened understanding and rebellious mind, his heart is corrupt, his emotions are perverted, his affections naturally gravitate to that which is evil and ungodly, his conscience is untrustworthy, and his body is subject to mortality.”

Reymond



Total Depravity

Genesis 6:5

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Genesis 8:21

The LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.



Total Depravity

1 Kings 8:46

“When they sin against You (for there is no man who does not sin) and You are angry with them and deliver them to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near...

Psalms 130:3

If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?



Total Depravity

Psalms 143:2

And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no man living is righteous.

Ecclesiastes 7:20

Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.



Total Depravity

Isaiah 53:6

All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.



Total Inability

... because man is totally or pervasively corrupt, he is *incapable of changing his character or of acting in a way that is distinct from his corruption.*

Reymond



Total Inability

Matthew 7:18

“A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

John 6:44

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.



Total Inability

John 6:65

And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

John 14:17

...that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.



Total Inability

Romans 8:7–8

...because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.



Total Depravity and Inability

These two human conditions (total depravity and total inability) demonstrate that man in his natural state is not only *morally and spiritually corrupt* but also *incapable of the understanding, the affections, and the will to act* which, taken together, enable one to be subject to the law of God, to respond to the gospel of grace, to appreciate the things of the Spirit, to do those things which are well-pleasing in God's sight, and to love God.

Reymond



Total Depravity and Inability - Conclusion

A proper understanding of who we were before Christ is essential to understand all that God has accomplished in Christ. This understanding will lead to the appropriate worship that our Lord deserves and the humility that should characterize a believer's life.



General Topics On Sin

Infants who die

Degrees of sin

What happens when a Christian sins

What is the unpardonable sin

Judgment



Infants Who Die

...even before birth children have a guilty standing before God and a sinful nature that not only gives them a tendency to sin but also causes God to view them as “sinners.”

Grudem

Psalm 51:5

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Here we must say that if such infants are saved, it cannot be on their own merits, or on the basis of their own righteousness or innocence, but it must be entirely on the basis of Christ's redemptive work and regeneration by the work of the Holy Spirit within them. Grudem

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Yet it certainly is possible for God to bring regeneration (that is, new spiritual life) to an infant even before he or she is born. Grudem

Consider the examples of John the Baptist, David, and Jeremiah



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

God's work in infants:

Luke 1:15

“For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.

Psalms 22:10

Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother's womb.



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

God's work in infants:

Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Children belong to God

Ezekiel 16:20–21

“Moreover, you took your sons and daughters whom you had borne to Me and sacrificed them to idols to be devoured. Were your harlotries so small a matter? “You slaughtered My children and offered them up to idols by causing them to pass through the fire.



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Jesus indicated that people who enter heaven are like children, implying that children go to heaven.

Matthew 18:2–5

And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. “Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. “And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me...



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Jesus indicated that people who enter heaven are like children, implying that children go to heaven.

Matthew 19:13–14

Then some children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, “Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Children Are Called Innocent

Jeremiah 19:4–5

“Because they have forsaken Me and have made this an alien place and have burned sacrifices in it to other gods, that neither they nor their forefathers nor the kings of Judah had ever known, and because they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent and have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, a thing which I never commanded or spoke of, nor did it ever enter My mind...



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Children Are Called Innocent

Deuteronomy 1:35

‘Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall see the good land which I swore to give your fathers,

Deuteronomy 1:39

‘Moreover, your little ones who you said would become a prey, and your sons, who this day have no knowledge of good or evil, shall enter there, and I will give it to them and they shall possess it.



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Children Are Called Innocent

God specifically exempted young children and infants from this sentence, and even explained why He did so: "Moreover, your little ones who you said would become prey, and your sons, who this day have no knowledge of good and evil, shall enter there, and I will give it to them and they shall possess it." The key issue here is that God specifically exempted from the judgment those who "have no knowledge of good or evil" because of their age. These "little ones" would inherit the Promised Land, and would not be judged on the basis of their fathers' sins. Mohler



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Children Are Called Innocent

We believe that this passage bears directly on the issue of infant salvation, and that the accomplished work of Christ has removed the stain of original sin from those who die in infancy. Knowing neither good nor evil, these young children are incapable of committing sins in the body – are not yet moral agents – and die secure in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Mohler

Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Children have limited understanding (Piper)

John 9:41

Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Children have limited understanding (Piper)

Jesus says in John 9:41 to those who were offended at his teaching and asked if he thought they were blind-he said, "If you were blind, you would not have had sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains." In other words, if a person lacks the natural capacity to see the revelation of God's will or God's glory then that person's sin would not remain-God would not bring the person into final judgment for not believing what he had no natural capacity to see.



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Children have limited understanding (Piper)

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

In other words: if a person did not have access to the revelation of God's glory - did not have the natural capacity to see it and understand it, then Paul implies they would have an excuse at the judgment.



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Sinners are judged according to their works.

What, then is our basis for claiming that all those who die in infancy are among the elect? First, the Bible teaches that we are to be judged on the basis of our deeds committed “in the body.”

Mohler



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Sinners are judged according to their works.

1 Corinthians 6:9–10

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Sinners are judged according to their works.

Revelation 20:11–12

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Sinners are judged according to their works.

That is, we will face the judgment seat of Christ and be judged, not on the basis of original sin, but for our sins committed during our own lifetimes. Each will answer “according to what he has done,” and not for the sin of Adam. The imputation of Adam’s sin and guilt explains our inability to respond to God without regeneration, but the Bible does not teach that we will answer for Adam’s sin. We will answer for our own.



Mohler

Arguments for Infants Being Saved

David and Bathsheba

2 Samuel 12:21–23

Then his servants said to him, “What is this thing that you have done? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept; but when the child died, you arose and ate food.” He said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘Who knows, the LORD may be gracious to me, that the child may live.’ “But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

David and Bathsheba

Particularly relevant here is the case of the first child Bathsheba bore to King David. When the infant child had died, David said, "*I shall go to him* but he will not return to me" (2 Sam. 12:23). David, who through his life had such great confidence that he would live forever in the Lord's presence (see Ps. 23:6, and many of David's psalms), also had confidence that he would see his infant son again when he died. This can only imply that he would be with his son in the presence of the Lord forever. Grudem



Arguments for Infants Being Saved

Unconditional Election and Infants (Piper)

It should also be emphasized that the salvation of all who die in infancy is not inconsistent with unconditional election (the view that God chooses whom to save of His own will, apart from anything in the individual). As Spurgeon pointed out, it is not that God chooses someone to salvation *because* they are going to die in infancy. Rather, He has ordained that only those who have been chosen for salvation will be allowed to die in infancy. God's justice in condemnation will be most clearly seen by allowing those who will not be saved to demonstrate their inherent sinfulness through willful, knowing transgression.



Arguments for Infants Being Saved - Conclusion

When we look into the grave of one of these little ones, we do not place our hope and trust in the false promises of an unbiblical theology, in the instability of sentimentalism, in the cold analysis of human logic, nor in the cowardly refuge of ambiguity.

We place our faith in Christ, and trust Him to be faithful to his Word. We claim the promises of the Scriptures and the assurance of the grace of our Lord. We know that heaven will be filled with those who never grew to maturity on earth, but in heaven will greet us completed in Christ. Let us resolve by grace to meet them there. Mohler



Are There Degrees of Sin?

Legal Guilt

It only takes one sin to condemn us to hell!

Romans 5:16

The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification.



Are There Degrees of Sin?

Legal Guilt

It only takes one sin to condemn us to hell!

James 2:10–11

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. For He who said, “Do NOT COMMIT ADULTERY,” also said, “Do NOT COMMIT MURDER.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.



Are There Degrees of Sin?

John 19:11

Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

Ezekiel 8:6

And He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations which the house of Israel are committing here, so that I would be far from My sanctuary? But yet you will see still greater abominations."



Are There Degrees of Sin?

Matthew 23:23

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.



Responding to Various Degrees of Sin

Grudem

It helps us to know where we should put more effort in our own attempts to grow in personal holiness.

It helps us to decide when we should simply overlook a minor fault in a friend or family member and when it would be appropriate to talk with an individual about some evident sin (see James 5:19–20).



Responding to Various Degrees of Sin

Grudem

It may help us decide when church discipline is appropriate, and it provides an answer to the objection that is sometimes raised against exercising church discipline, in which it is said that “we are all guilty of sin, so we have no business meddling in anyone else’s life.”

This distinction may also help us realize that there is some basis for civil governments to have laws and penalties prohibiting certain kinds of wrongdoing (such as murder or stealing), but not other kinds of wrongdoing (such as anger, jealousy, greed, or selfish use of one’s possessions)



Are There Unintentional Sins?

Leviticus 4:2

Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'If a person sins unintentionally in any of the things which the LORD has commanded not to be done, and commits any of them...

Leviticus 4:13

Now if the whole congregation of Israel commits error and the matter escapes the notice of the assembly, and they commit any of the things which the LORD has commanded not to be done, and they become guilty...



What Happens When a Christian Sins?

Grudem

Our Legal Standing Before God Is Unchanged

Romans 8:1

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



What Happens When a Christian Sins?

Grudem

Our Fellowship With God Is Disrupted and Our Christian Life Is Damaged

Ephesians 4:30

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Hebrews 12:6

FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."



What Happens When a Christian Sins?

Our Fellowship With God Is Disrupted and Our Christian Life Is Damaged

Although they never can fall from the state of justification, yet they may, by their sins, fall under God's *fatherly displeasure* and not have the light of His countenance restored unto them, until they humble themselves, confess their sins, beg pardon, and renew their faith and repentance. (chap. 11, sec. 5)



Westminster Confession of Faith

What is the Unpardonable Sin?

Matthew 12:31–32

“Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. “Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.



What is the Unpardonable Sin?

Grudem

The context indicates that Jesus is speaking about a sin that is not simply unbelief or rejection of Christ, but one that includes

- (1) a clear knowledge of who Christ is and of the power of the Holy Spirit working through him,
- (2) a willful rejection of the facts about Christ that his opponents knew to be true, and
- (3) slanderously attributing the work of the Holy Spirit in Christ to the power of Satan.



What is the Unpardonable Sin?

Berkhof wisely defines this sin in the following way:

This sin consists in the conscious, malicious, and willful rejection and slander, against evidence and conviction, of the testimony of the Holy Spirit respecting the grace of God in Christ, attributing it out of hatred and enmity to the Prince of Darkness ... in committing that sin man willfully, maliciously, and intentionally attributes what is clearly recognized as the work of God to the influence and operation of Satan.



Judgment

...because of man's corruption and inability to please God, he is deserving of punishment, for his sin is not only real evil, morally wrong, the violation of God's law, and therefore, undesirable, odious, ugly, disgusting, filthy, and ought not to be; it is also the contradiction of God's perfection, cannot but meet with his disapproval and wrath, and *damnable* in the strongest sense of the word because it *dishonors* God. God must react with holy indignation. He cannot do otherwise.



Reymond

Conclusion

1 Peter 1:3–5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

