

## THE CHARACTER AND UNIVERSALITY OF SIN

### Romans 3:23

**Introduction:** "Sin" is a word that has a lot of definitions, depending upon who is asked to define it. It seems that everybody has their own ideas about "sin." Of course the only reliable and truthful source to find out about "sin" is the Bible. After all, that is where the idea originated. So, what about "sin?"

### I. THE HUMAN THEORY OF SIN

1. "Sin" is the subject of endless discussions.
2. Most human concepts of "sin" are inadequate.
  - Some say that "sin" is only in the mind, an illusion, but fails to face the facts.
  - Also human concepts deny the existence of God.
  - It is also said that "sin" is the opposite of God, thus physical-material.
    - Denial of physical, material brings righteousness.
    - It ignores the fact of man's actual sins and that man is accountable to God.
  - "Sin" is nothing more than just selfishness.
3. All these and others fall short of the Biblical definition, standard of "sin."

### II. THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF SIN

1. *Exodus 20:3-17* - The ten commandments show that "sin" is different from God and is always against God. The sinner is subject to God's judgment.
2. Personal Sin - *Romans 3:23* - includes everything in daily life that is not like God.
  - God's commands that are disobeyed - rebellion - disobedience.
  - People come short, miss the "mark" - fail to attain God's standard.
3. The Old Sin Nature - *Romans 5:19; Ephesians 2:3* - Adam sinned and became an entirely different person.
  - Someone/thing untrue, impure cannot give birth to that which is true and pure.
  - Every human is born prone to sin, a nature derived from Adam.
  - The Old Sin Nature hold on mankind was destroyed at the Cross, but continues to plague the believer in Jesus Christ.
  - The total nature of man is corrupt.
  - People do not sin and then become sinners, people sin because they are born sinners.
4. Sin is imputed to man's account - *Romans 5:12-18*
  - "Impute" means to count to, charge to, belongs to.
    - Adam's sin is imputed to the human race (called the original sin).
    - Man's sin is imputed to Jesus Christ on the cross (called salvation).
    - God's righteousness is imputed to believers (called justification).

- Imputation can be actual or judicial.
    - actual - originally owned to begin with.
    - judicial - not originally one's own, but somebody else's.
    - ***Romans 5:12-18***
  - Adam's sin brings death (his own sin).
  - God imputed man's sin on Christ (not His own).
  - God imputes salvation and righteousness to the believer (not his/her own).
5. All mankind is under sin. (*Romans 3:9; 11:32- Galatians 3:22*)
- Sin is imputed by God - judicially.
  - All under sin are without anything that might contribute toward their salvation.
  - Salvation is by grace alone and grace excludes all/any human merit.
  - Being under sin can be remedied only when the person is acknowledged by God and that comes only through the person's belief in Jesus Christ.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Regardless of what people think of sin, the only thing that matters is what God thinks about it.
2. God says that every human being since Adam, including Adam, are sinners.
3. God also says that the only way that a person can be accepted by Him is by a person not being a sinner.
4. God says that the only way for a sinner to be accepted by him is by that sinner believing in His Son, Jesus Christ.
5. No works, no deeds, nothing a sinner can do will make him/her sinless, only God's Son, Jesus can bring salvation to a sinner.
6. Therefore, to believe in Jesus Christ with all one's heart is God's way to be accepted by Him.