



# In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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## In the Beginning

We are not sinners because we  
sin, we sin because we are  
sinners.



# In the Beginning

- Original sin is a big, big deal – if there were no such thing as sin, the Bible after chapter 2, would be mostly irrelevant.
- Do you agree with that audacious statement and, why, or why not?
- Because it is sin that separated mankind from God, and were there no separation then God would have stayed connected to man and spoke to him face-to-face as it were.



# In the Beginning

- “Original sin has to do with the fallenness of human nature. Jonathan Edwards wrote a tremendous treatise on original sin. He not only devoted himself to a lengthy exposition of what the Bible teaches about man's fallen character and his propensity toward wickedness, but he made a study from a secular, rational perspective that addressed the philosophy that was widespread in his day: **Everyone in the world is born innocent, in a state of moral neutrality in which they don't have any predilection toward either the good or the evil. It's society that corrupts these innocent natives, so to speak. As we are exposed to sinful behavior around us, our normal, natural innocence is eroded by the influence of society.** But that begs the question, How did society get corrupt in the first place? Society is people.



# In the Beginning

- Why is it that so many people have sinned? It's almost axiomatic in our culture that nobody is perfect. And Edwards asked questions like, Why not? If everyone were born in a state of moral neutrality, you would expect statistically that approximately 50 percent of those people would grow up and never sin. But that's not what we find. Everywhere we find human beings acting against the moral precepts and standards of the New Testament. In fact, whatever the moral standards are of the culture in which they live, nobody keeps them perfectly. Even the honor that's established among thieves is violated by thieves. No matter how low the level of morality is in a given society, people break it.” R.C. Sproul on Jonathon Edwards



# In the Beginning

- So where did sin originate?
- Ezek 28:13 You were in Eden, the garden of God. Your clothing was adorned with every precious stone—red carnelian, pale-green peridot, white moonstone, blue-green beryl, onyx, green jasper, blue lapis lazuli, turquoise, and emerald—all beautifully crafted for you and set in the finest gold. They were given to you on the day you were created. 14 I ordained and anointed you as the mighty angelic guardian. You had access to the holy mountain of God and walked among the stones of fire. 15 *“You were blameless in all you did from the day you were created until the day evil was found in you.”*



# In the Beginning

- We see here in Ezekiel 28 that one of God's created angelic beings, who can only be Lucifer, later named Satan, was the first one to have his sin recorded and surely the first to ever sin.
- So where did his sin come from? According to Ezekiel, his sin came from within himself just as Adam's did.
- James 1:14 **But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.** 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.



# In the Beginning

- Evidently there is something within the plan of God based upon His wisdom that calls for Him to allow choice by His creations in order for their to be perfection in His universe.
- We generally refer to this as “free will” where in His creations must have an unimpeded ability to exercise choice.
- Only an omnipotent and omniscient God would allow His subjects to freely reject Him so that perfection could be seen and realized.





# In the Beginning

- Whether mankind actually has free will or not today is a matter of debate, but there is no debate about Lucifer and Adam having free will – they did.
- While we, as children of Adam have a nature (will) that is bent and inclined to sin, Adam did not.
- Nevertheless, we too choose to sin just like Adam and are just as guilty of sin as though we were the first to ever commit sin.



# In the Beginning

- When we come to the end of Genesis 1 and read that everything was “very good”, we need only compare God’s assessment of the world then to our assessment of the world today to see there is a problem.
- That problem is THE problem that leads to all of the problems in the world.
- God saw it advance and addressed it advance, but the solution would not be without great pain and suffering.



# In the Beginning

- What does it say about the seriousness of sin when even God could not solve it by decree?
- Instead, the solution that we refer to as the cross came about with thousands of years of delay, pain, heartache, and preparation.
- What is it about disobeying God that calls for such a painstakingly awful remedy?



# In the Beginning

- Sin is a terrible and deadly thing, but at least it is a problem with a clear and present remedy.
- God saw to that for us - His way was to first show us all how sinful we are, and then how gracious He is.
- Rom 7:13 Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! ***Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful.***



## In the Beginning

- Think about this – when Paul was searching for a word to cast sin in its proper light, he had to use the word itself to describe it in order to justly condemn it! (it was the worst word he could think of to call it)
- As Romans chapter 7 opens Paul is teaching that anyone who thinks that the law was given to save, or is sufficient to save us is mistaken.
- Sin is much more of a problem than the law could address.



# In the Beginning

- The law was never intended to save us – it was intended to show us that we are condemned and to show us the distance between mankind and God because sin is so sinful.
- Gal 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. 24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.



# In the Beginning

- The law cannot save because the law cannot cleanse, it can only show us what needs to be cleansed.
- Paul's argument is that the law is good, but that it is insufficient to save – it cannot appease the righteous anger of a Holy God.
- As the hymn writer phrased it, “What can take away my sins, nothing, but the blood of Jesus”.



# In the Beginning

- Original sin has lasting consequences in that it is passed down to us from the “federal head” of the human race, Adam.
- Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.
- The idea is that we (in Adam’s genetic code) were literally “IN” Adam and when he fell, we all fell.





# In the Beginning

- So why is Adam called the “Federal Head” of the human race – this term is not used anywhere in the Bible.
- Federalism is but one theory of how sin is passed down generation to generation and it is loosely based on the analogy of Jesus as our “federal” representative.
- Rom 5:18 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.



# In the Beginning

- Big picture – it is irrelevant whether one embraces “federalism” as the means through which sin is imputed.
- The Bible is clear that sin is handed down generation to generation and “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”.
- In fact, our own experiences and our observations of our offspring point to an inherited sin nature.



# In the Beginning

- Psalm 51:5 For I was born a sinner— *yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.*
- Eph 2:1 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. 3 *All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.*



# In the Beginning

- Psalm 14:2 The Lord looks down from heaven on the entire human race; he looks to see if anyone is truly wise, if anyone seeks God. 3 ***But no, all have turned away; all have become corrupt. No one does good, not a single one!***
- Job 15:14 ***Can any mortal be pure? Can anyone born of a woman be just?*** 15 Look, God does not even trust the angels. Even the heavens are not absolutely pure in his sight. 16 How much less pure is a corrupt and sinful person with a thirst for wickedness!



# In the Beginning

- Jere 17:9 **“The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked.** Who really knows how bad it is?
- “Why should man be so continually spoken of as evil, carnal, perverse, deceitful, and desperately wicked, if all men are by nature as perfectly innocent, and free from any propensity to evil, as Adam was the first moment of his creation?” Jonathon Edwards



# In the Beginning

- If mankind is not born with a sinful nature, then surely in 6,000 years and billions of people, shouldn't at least one have made it through life without sinning?
- And yet, with the lone exception of a virgin born man named Jesus, there is zero evidence that it has ever happened.
- You could argue that there may have been one and we just didn't know it – you could, but the weight of the evidence for the bible being correct is overwhelming.



# In the Beginning

- And what is that weight? It is found in the lives of everyone we know.
- I know some really good people – and by really good I mean that by placing all people I know on a continuum of best to worst, there are some that are far more righteous than the others.
- But, none on the continuum of righteousness are without sin – not even close!



# In the Beginning

- Sin is our lot in life, and contending with the old and sinful nature, even once we are born again, is our everyday reality.
- But, it is a temporary condition for us that is limited to this life once we become God's children through the new birth.
- 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:8 But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. **But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.**





# In the Beginning

- Original sin is a big deal – it explains why we have such an affinity for sin and why we are plagued by it.
- Knowing that we, and all other human beings have a nature that is bent towards sin allows us to understand why we are as we are and why we need a Savior.
- A worldview that excludes mankind's inclination to, and capacity for, evil is one that is found wanting for explanations of why the world is so messed up.



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# Questions

