

So Many Opinions – One Truth

- Most people who call themselves Christians believe they are sinners because of Adam.
- *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned —Rom 5:12*
- Started with Augustine – Then John Calvin
- Basis: infant baptism, unconditional election
- Hopeless confusion in the minds of most people. Nearly impossible to remove it.
- Convinced they are helpless/hopeless

One Truth

- *as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus **death spread** to all men, **because all** sinned — Rom 5:12-13*
- How did death spread? It was not automatic!
- Death spread **BECAUSE ALL** (each person — one by one sinned).
- Paul's Example.
- ***I was alive** once without the law, but when **the commandment came, sin revived and I died.***
*¹⁰ And **the commandment**, which was **to bring life, I found to bring death.** Rom 7:9-11*

The Problem Was NOT Law

- *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." 8 But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. Rom 7:7-8*
- *Can't blame it on how hard the law is to keep.*
- *Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. Rom 7:12*

Problem not Adam & Not Law

- *I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. 10 And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. 11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. Rom 7:9-11*
- The problem is within us!
- The flesh felt a temptation ... The law condemned it as sin.
- We chose to do it. Sin came alive ... I died
- The Problem is my fleshly desires.

The Problem is Our Flesh

● *For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. Rom 7:22-24*

● *Watch and pray, that you enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. Mt. 26:41*

● Both these passages agree. When our spirit is willing ... our flesh is the problem

● Not Adam ... Not the Law ... Our own flesh and it's desires.

Problem is Within Each One of Us

- *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. James 1:13-15*
- This sums up Paul's words about Himself.
- He was alive ...
- The commandment came ...

Each one is Tempted by Lust

- *each one is tempted*
- One by one by one we all fell the same way.
- *drawn away by his own desires and enticed*
- Every temptation we now face began here.
- A comparison makes this clear.
- Read Gal 5:19-21; Rom 1:18ff; etc.
- We are not tempted by each of these.
- Most generate no desire and if an enticement comes it is easy to set aside.
- This is how everything was when born

Jesus “*tempted in all points*” ... “no sin”

- how Jesus dealt with all His temptations.
- *in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*
Heb. 4:15
- At every opportunity the devil presented Jesus with enticements.
- After his fast, He went into the wilderness *being tempted for forty days by the devil.*
- After they failed, Satan continued to entice
- *when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.”*
(Lk. 4:2-13).
- Jesus mastered His flesh. He never allowed any enticement to create lust. He was not interested

We are Like Jesus

- The vast majority of temptations end with no response
- We are no more interested in them than Jesus was.
- What about the ones that do tempt us?
- Where did they come from?
- Why are they a problem to us?
- Why do some enticements lead us to sin?
- Is it law? Is it Adam? Is it God? NO!
- We chose them one by one.

We bear the Responsibility

- No matter what our lusts, enticements & sin
- *each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*
- This is the process or the steps that have created every sin we ever committed.
- Our desires embraced the enticement (gave birth) and sin was born into our life.
- Responsibility brings guilt ... It also brings possibilities and opportunities.

- The first lustful look, lie, theft, hatred ungodly thought, angry words were all awkward things.
- No experience didn't know how ...
- clumsy at them as when we learned to ride a bike.
- Yet like everything else, practice made perfect.
- Not did does practice make perfect, practice also made the habits we find so difficult to stop
- *O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Rom 7:24-25*
- Now we are ready to find the solution and path

The Way of Escape

- *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it 1Cor. 10:13*
- Every single temptation is common to man. There is nothing extraordinary about ours.
- We are not victims – We are like everyone.
- If we succumb to such thinking, we are like the 10 spies thinking we are only grasshoppers.

God is faithful

- He will not allow us to be tempted above what we are able to bear.
- Regardless of how many times we have tried and failed, we must “*trust in the Lord with all our heart and not lean on our own understanding.*” because “*God is faithful.*”
- We can overcome this temptation and enticement! We have the resources and the ability, we only need to learn how.
- We got ourselves into this mess, but God has given us what we need to remove ourselves from it.

The Way of Escape is Painful

- “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” (Mt. 16:24).
- If **our** “hand” or “foot” causes us “to stumble,” **we**, of our own freewill, must “cut it off.”
- God doesn’t do this for us, we have to do it ourselves.
- If our “eye” causes us “to stumble” **we** must “pluck it out.” (Mk 9:43-28).
- Until we accept responsibility we can move

Old Habits Die Hard

- Some temptations are deeply rooted in our mind.
- We have done them again and again.
- They are part of our existence and our flesh craves them just like a drugs or alcohol.
- These habits must be broken and the feelings of pleasure must be denied.
- Some things have to be “*put to death*” (Col. 3:5), and they do not die easily.

How Paul did it

- The threads of habit have become a cable, binding us to sin by hundreds and even thousands of previous acts and thoughts.
- Paul summed it up with: Gal 2:20
- *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me”*
- How did he maintain his purity? 1Cor. 9:27
- *“I buffet my body, and bring it into bondage: lest by any means, after that I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected.”*

God is Not Mocked

- *“God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. (Gal. 6:7-8).*
- True both before and after we became a Christian.
- Lusts and enticements like weeds and we sowed them ourselves.
- The way of escape can only be found in the painful process of pulling them out by the roots.