

Lecture 12 – The Doctrine of Sin (cont.)

“But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:15-17

Key Terms

Pelagianism, Arminianism, Calvinism: Natural headship, mediate headship, immediate imputation

Objectives

*Summarize and compare historical views on original sin.

*Consider and summarize important pastoral implications of the doctrines of original sin.

The Doctrine of Sin

II. The Doctrine of Sin

A. A biblical description of sin

B. The fall of Adam and Eve into sin

C. Original sin in Romans 5:12-19

1. An analysis of Romans 1:18-5:21

2. An exegesis of Romans 5:12-19

3. Views of original sin

4. Evaluation of the views of original sin

a. Pelagianism

b. Arminianism

c. Calvinism: Natural headship

d. Calvinism: Representative view: Mediate imputation

1) Contrasted with immediate imputation

a) Definition

(1) Adam’s sin is imputed to the human race resulting in _____ for the race.

(2) As a consequence, human beings are born with a corrupt nature.

2) Definition of mediate imputation

a) As a result of Adam’s sin, human beings are born with a _____ nature. This corrupt nature is the basis for each man’s condemnation.

b) Since each person has a corrupt nature from Adam, each is _____ of Adam’s sin.

3) Weaknesses of mediate imputation.

a) Romans 5:12

Mediate imputation takes πάντες αμαρτον in Romans 5:12 to mean *to be* or *become corrupt*. This seems to be an impossibility.

b) Paul’s teaching in Romans 5

In Romans 5 Paul repeatedly teaches that Adam and his posterity die for the one sin of Adam. “Death, condemnation, and the status of the

sinner are all related to the one sin of the one man. There is no intermediary of any kind” (Johnson, p. 311).

- c) Verses 13-14
 - d) Johnson’s argument
 - e) Reaction against Calvinism
- e. Calvinism: Representative view: Immediate imputation
- 1) Strengths of the view
 - a) Biblical presentation of Adam

The Bible presents Adam as both the natural and representative head of the human race. Johnson points out that the unfolding of Scripture demonstrates that the promises of dominion and the threats given to Adam were for the race. “So, just as the act of the Last Adam is a representative act, becoming the judicial ground of the justification of the believers, it follows that the act of the first Adam is a representative act, becoming the judicial ground of the condemnation of those united to him” (p. 312).
 - b) Implication
 - c) Paul’s argument in Romans 5
 - d) Only the first sin

“...immediate imputation enables us to see why only the first sin of Adam and not his subsequent sins, nor the sin of Eve, is imputed to Men” (Johnson, p. 313).
 - e) Verses 13-14

Immediate imputation best explains the relation of vv. 13-14 to v. 12. The $\gamma\alpha\rho$ shows that vv. 13-14 explain v. 12. “If, however, v. 12 means that all men are sinners (cf. Pelagius et al.), or that all have become corrupt (*mediate imputation*), or even that all actually sinned in Adam (*realism*), the verses do not substantiate the assertion of v. 12. If, however, v. 12 asserts that all have sinned in their representative, then everything is clear” (Johnson, p. 313). The relation between vv. 13-14 and v. 12 is clear; all of the details in the exegesis are not clear.
 - 2) Objections to the view
 - a) Deuteronomy 24:16
 - b) Ezekiel 18:1-32
 - c) Hebrews 7:9-10
5. Systematic and pastoral implications of the doctrine of original sin
- a. Worship is due to God for:
 - 1) His _____ with men
 - 2) Revealing His _____
 - 3) The principle of representation
 - 4) His dealings with us in Christ
 - 5) His _____ and justice
 - b. People are in need of a Savior due to:
 - 1) Real, objective guilt
 - 2) Pollution of sin
 - c. A fuller appreciation of the saving righteousness of the second and last Adam—Jesus Christ.