

Original Sin

The Belgic Confession, Article 15

1. The Scripture: Romans 5:14-17

Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

2. The Doctrine

- a. Adam was placed in the garden as the covenant or federal head of the human race (Rom. 5, 1 Cor. 15).
- b. Original Sin: "We believe that through the disobedience of Adam original sin is extended to all mankind; which is a corruption of the whole nature and a hereditary disease, wherewith even infants in their mother's womb are infected, and which produces in man all sorts of sin, being in him as a root thereof, and therefore is so vile and abominable in the sight of God that it is sufficient to condemn all mankind."
- c. This principle of covenant headship is the way we are saved in Christ: by God's grace and mercy in Christ, Adam's sin is not imputed to us but is forgiven.

3. The Use

- a. Defend it (over against Pelagianism in all of its forms)
- b. Love it (remember the "much more" of Rom. 5:17)
- c. Live it (as with all of the doctrine of sin: gratitude, humility, generosity)