

The Doctrine of Sin

“Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature” (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, p. 490).

I. We Are All Sinners

Psalm 14:1-3; 130:3; 143:1-2; Romans 3:9-19, 23; Galatians 3:22

II. We Are All Born Sinners

Psalm 51:5; 58:3; Ephesians 2:1-3

The definition of sin given above specifies that sin is a failure to conform to God’s moral law not only in *action* and in *attitude* but also in our *moral nature*. Our very nature, the internal character that is the essence of who we are as persons, can also be sinful. Before we were redeemed by Christ, not only did we do sinful acts and have sinful attitudes, we were also sinners by nature. So Paul can say that “while *we were yet sinners* Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8), or that previously “we were *by nature* children of wrath, like the rest of mankind” (Eph. 2:3). Even while asleep, an unbeliever, though not committing sinful actions or actively nurturing sinful attitudes, is still a “sinner” in God’s sight; he or she still has a sinful nature that does not conform to God’s moral law. (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, p. 490-491)

III. We Are All Affected by Sin in Every Aspect of Our Being

Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 1:18-21, 26-27; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 4:17-19; Titus 1:15

IV. We Are All Rendered Incapable of Any Spiritual Good by Sin

Isaiah 64:6; Jeremiah 13:23; John 3:3-5; 6:44, 65; Romans 8:7-8; 1 Corinthians 2:12-14