

# Do We Have a Sinful Nature?

By

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# Originated with Augustine

- ▶ He believed that Adam was not just the first man but the generic man who acted in behalf of all mankind. The sin of Adam is the sin of you and me and the guilt of Adam is for you and me. When Adam sinned, all have sinned according to Augustine.

# Originated with Augustine

- ▶ Augustine believed that when Adam committed that first transgression, it resulted in a change of character. He believed that man's nature was good until the sin of Adam but when he sinned his nature became corrupt and this sinful nature was passed on to all mankind.

# Presbyterian Confession of Faith

- ▶ “By this sin, they (Adam and Eve) fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and so became dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of soul and body. They being the root of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed, and the same death in sin and corrupted nature conveyed to all their posterity, descending from them by ordinary generation. From this original corruption, whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions.”

# Contentions:

- ▶ Man is born guilty of Adam's sin
- ▶ Man's nature changed after the fall
- ▶ Man is depraved, wholly inclined to evil

# Are We Born Inheriting Adam's Sin? NO!

- ▶ We are responsible for our own sin (Ezek. 18:20)
- ▶ We are to become as children (Matt. 18:3-4)
- ▶ Jesus was sinless (Heb. 4:15). If all inherit Adam's sin, then Jesus is a sinner too!

## Did our nature change after the fall?

- ▶ Physically, NO! Adam and Eve died because they were cut off from the tree of life (Gen. 3:22)

# Did our nature change after the fall?

- ▶ Spiritually, man's nature did not change (Gen. 3:ff)
  - Man possessed a dual nature before and after the fall - no difference between us and Adam and Eve.
  - The same thing that caused Adam and Eve to sin causes us to sin (1 Jno. 2:15)
  - We still battle (Gal. 5:17ff)
  - We still sin (1 Jno. 1:8-10)

# Are We “Totally Depraved?”

- ▶ **If so,**
  - **Why preach the gospel (Rom. 1:16)**
  - **How can faith come by hearing? (Rom. 10:17)**
  - **What about Jesus?**

# The Bible Teaches That:

- ▶ We are born into a world of sin, (Psa. 51:5) pure and spotless. When we reach an age when we understand what sin is, we soon follow the example of Adam (Rom. 5:12ff), yield to temptation and sin.
- ▶ At that time we are separated from God because of our sin (Isa. 59:2) and must be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:18-21) to be forgiven.