

The

INHERITED

SINFUL NATURE

MYTH

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

THE BIBLE
CLEARLY
TEACHES

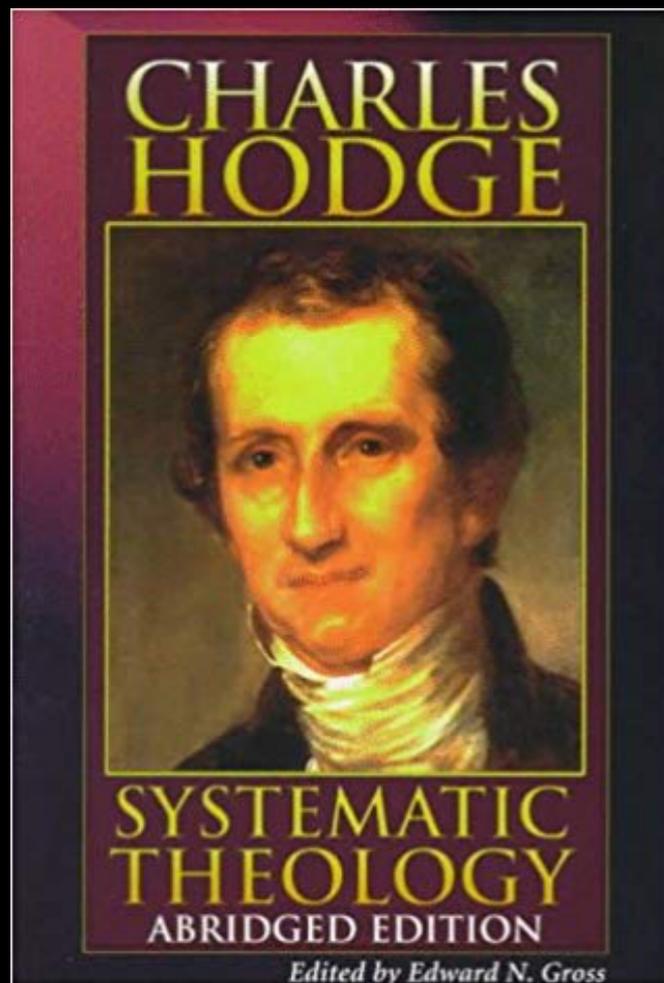


- > All (Jew & Gentile) have “gone astray” (Rom. 3:9-18)
- > All have sinned (Rom. 3:23)
- > Sin is pervasive (1 Cor. 5:6)
- > The world (people) is evil (Jn 5:19)
- > Sin is controlling (Rom. 6:12,14)
- > Sin, if practiced enough, becomes “natural,” searing the conscience (Ep. 2:3; 2 Pet. 2:14; 1 Tim. 4:2)

The QUESTION IS **NOT IF**, But **WHY** and **HOW!**

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

TO DEFINE

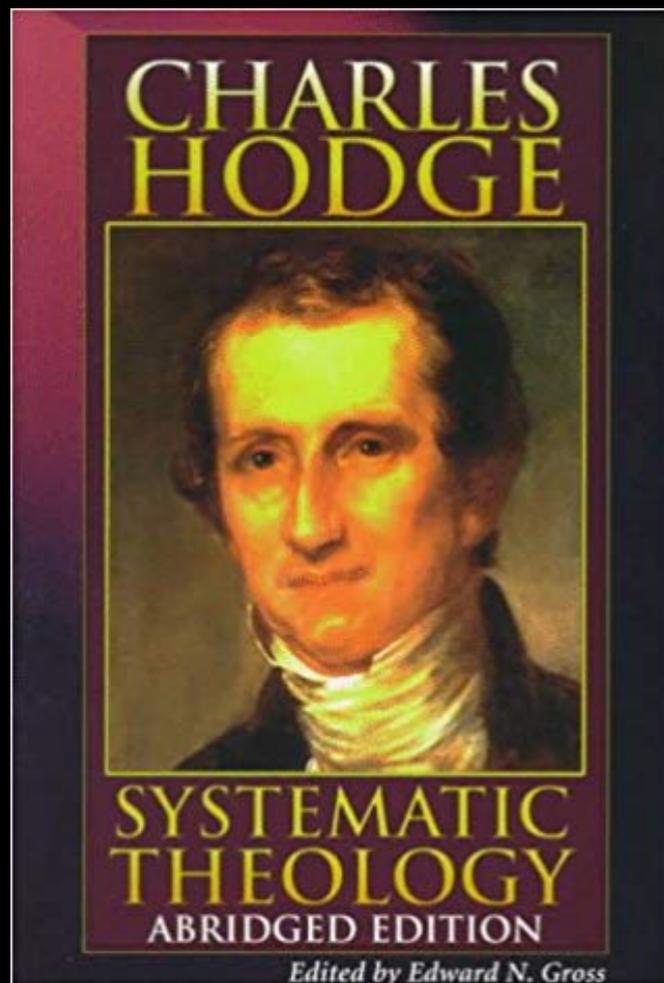


The Effects of Adam's Sin upon his Posterity. "That the sin of Adam injured not himself only but also all descending from him by ordinary generation, is part of the faith of the whole Christian world."

(Hodges' Systematic Theology, Vol. II, Part II-Anthropology)

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

TO DEFINE

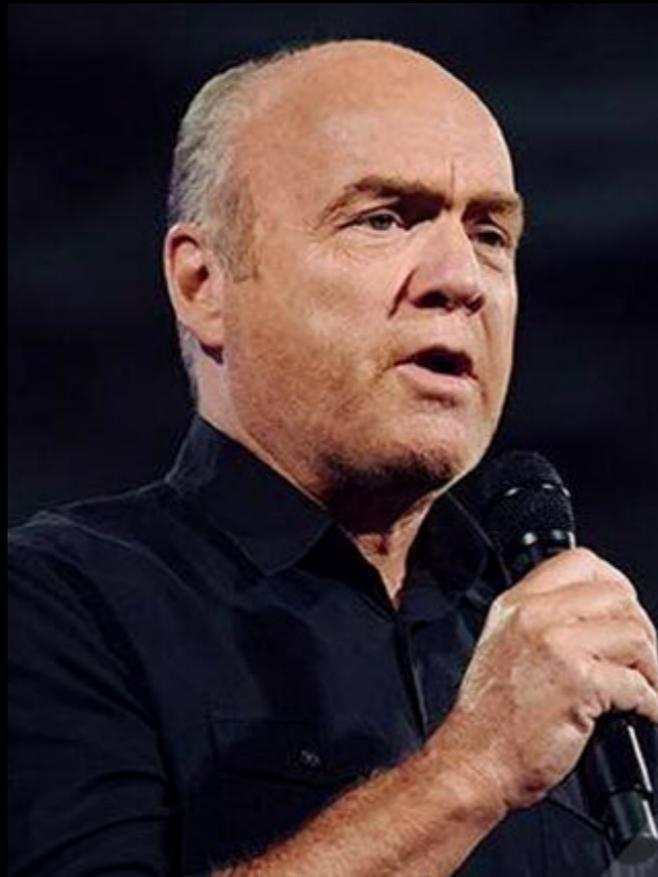


“...Or, as is expressed in the Confession, 'Our first parents, being the root of all mankind, the guilt of their sin was imputed, and the same death in sin and corrupted nature were conveyed to all their posterity, descending from them by ordinary generation.'”

(Hodges' Systematic Theology, Vol. II, Part II-Anthropology)

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

TO DEFINE



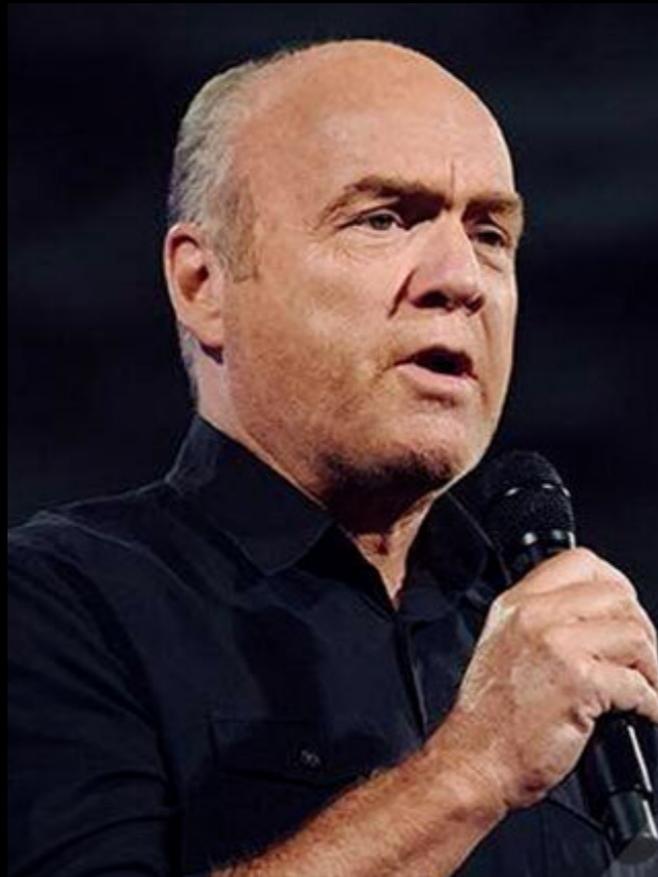
Pastor Greg Laurie

“It is essential to know that we are all born with a built-in sinful nature. We inherited this nature through Adam. Our sins don’t make us sinners; they’re just the evidence. We are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners.”

<https://harvest.org/know-god-article/our-sinful-nature/>

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

TO DEFINE



Pastor Greg Laurie

“We might also agree that there is a certain innocence in a child. But make no mistake about it—the sin nature is alive and well in every one of us. You don’t have to teach a child how to sin, do you?”

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

SIN IS UNNATURAL

DOES MAN INHERIT A SINFUL NATURE?

A SCRIPTURAL DISCOURSE
ON THE HUMAN CONSTITUTION



JESSE MORRELL

“when you first started lying or stealing, you had a guilty conscience” — (Jed Smock, Open Air Sermon, Oklahoma University, Dec. 2008)

“God made human nature; God did not make sin! Sin is never natural. It is horribly un-natural. Sin is never ‘human’. It is horribly in-human. — (Winkie Pratney; Youth Aflame, published by Bethany House, p. 78)

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SIN IS UNNATURAL

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JESSE MORRELL

“Sin creates remorse, guilt, and shame; every time a man feels these three witnesses in his soul, they tell him sin is not natural. Even the simple lie-detector can tell us this. The whole body reacts adversely when a man sins...” —
(Winkie Pratney; Youth Aflame, published by Bethany House, p. 78)

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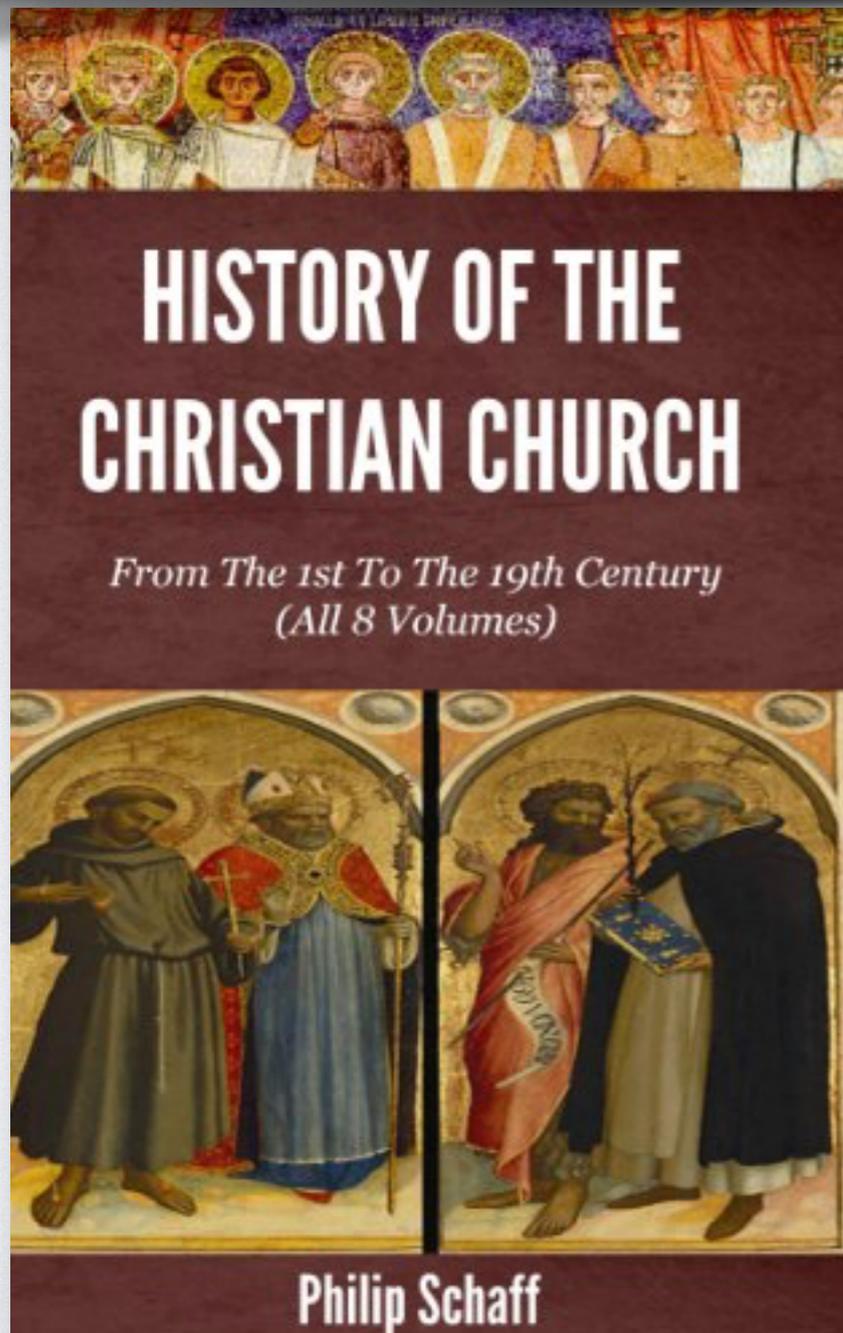


JESSE MORRELL

“Nature and character must be distinguished between, lest we confuse our natural attributes with our moral attributes and assign moral qualities to involuntary states of nature. Our character is determined by our own will. Our constitution or nature is determined by God’s will.” — Jesse Morrell; (Does Man Inherit A Sinful Nature, p. 32)

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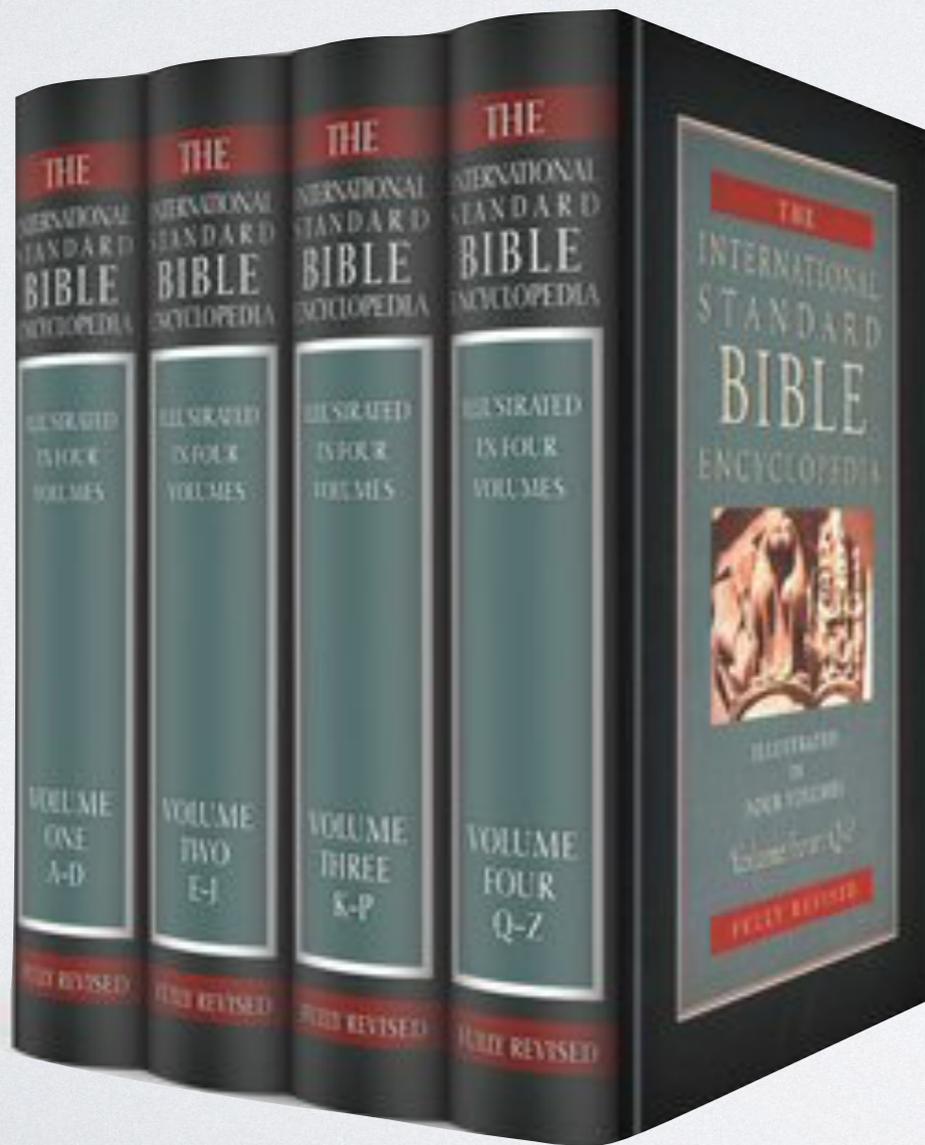
WHEN & HOW IT ORIGINATED



"It was the universal faith of the church that man was made in the image of God, pure and holy, and fell by his own guilt. But the extent of sin and the consequences of the fall were not fully discussed before the Pelagius-Augustine controversy in the fifth century."
(Schaff, Vol. II, p. 246)

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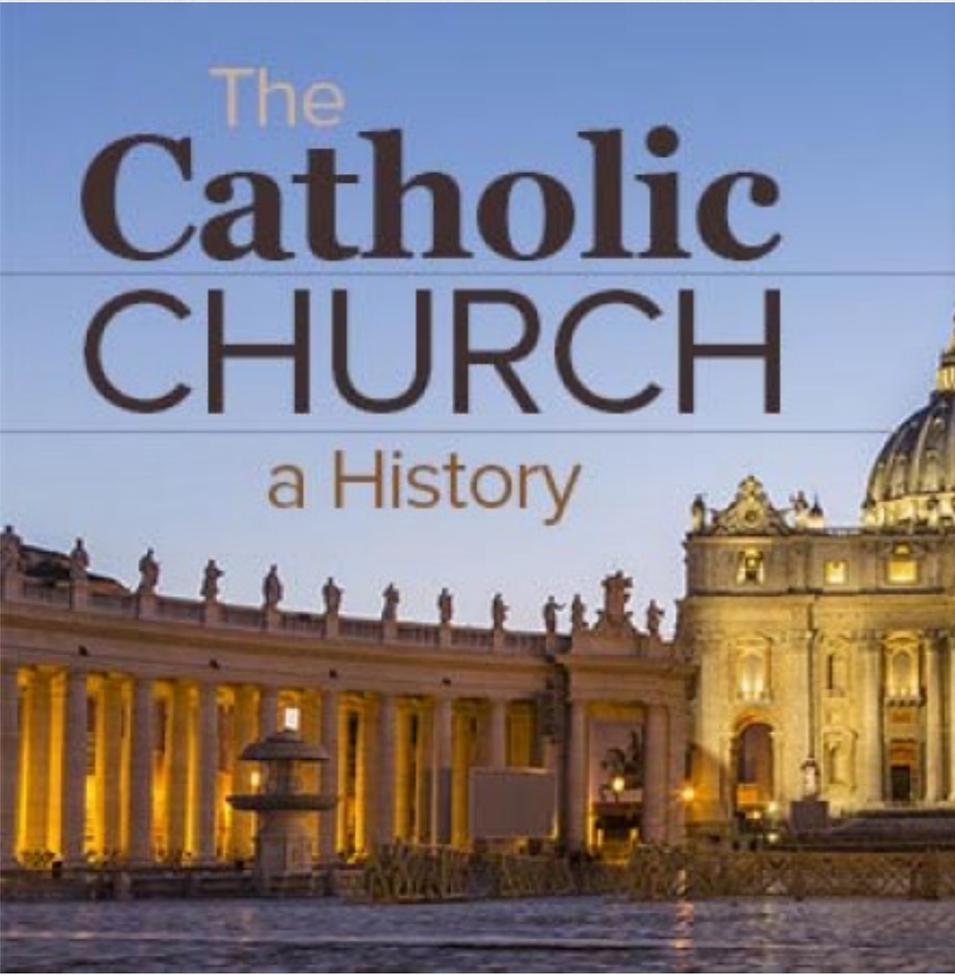
WHEN & HOW IT ORIGINATED



Augustine, (354-430AD) credited with formulating the concept of original sin, held that Adam's fall corrupted man, making the human race a mass of sin. Man inherited both the tendency to sin and the guilt for Adam's sin, for in him the entire race sinned. (ISBE)

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

WHEN & HOW IT ORIGINATED

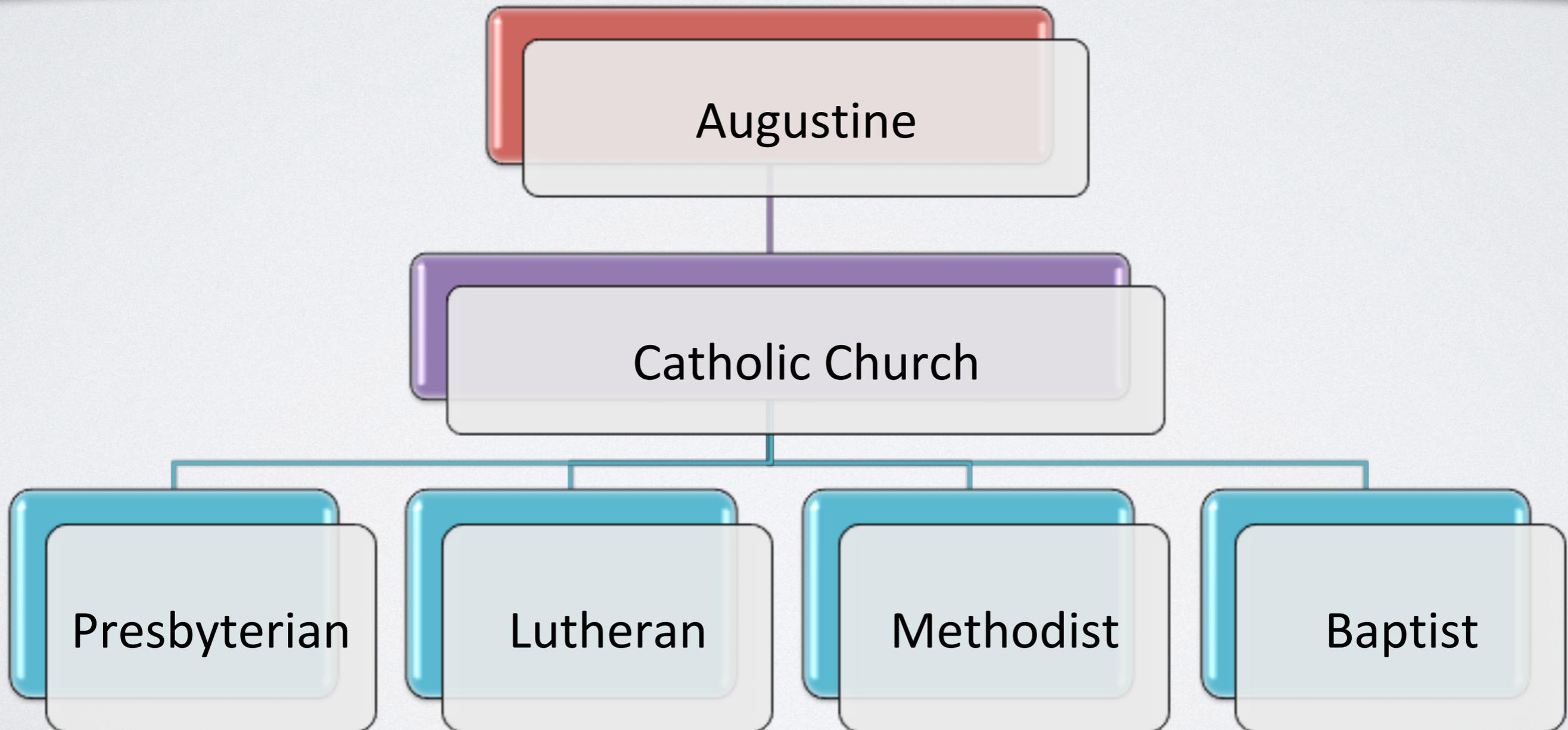


The
**Catholic
CHURCH**
a History

- ▶ Already the Roman Catholic hierarchy was developing and the doctrine of that church was forming. Original sin became a fundamental tenet of that faith.
- ▶ Council of Trent 1545-1563: "Adam's first sin has been transmitted to all his descendants".

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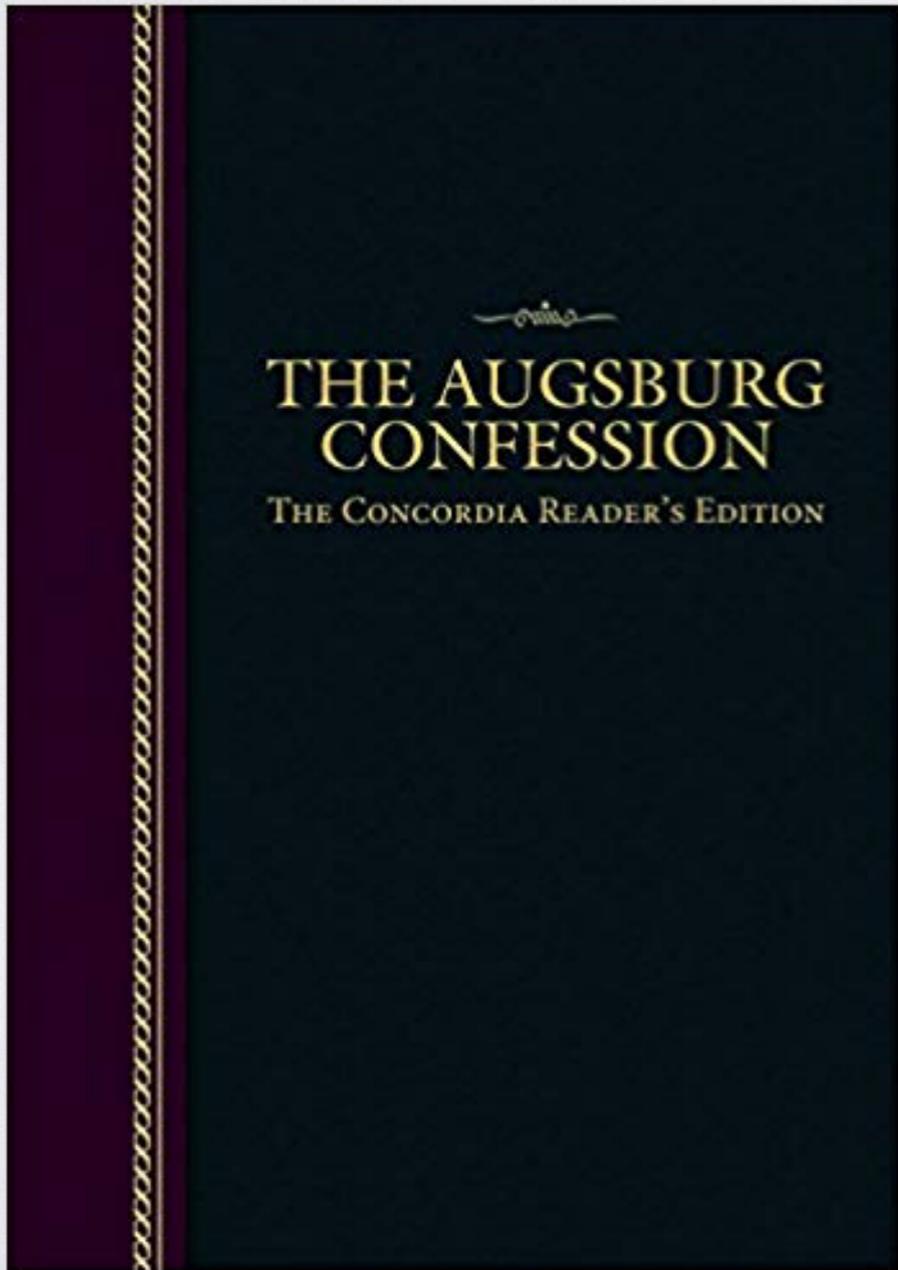
WHEN & HOW IT ORIGINATED



The

INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH



THE AUGSBURG
CONFESSION
THE CONCORDIA READER'S EDITION

▶ **Augsburg confession Article 2:** "... all men who are born according to the course of nature are conceived and born in sin. That is, all men are full of evil lust and inclination from their mother's womb and are unable by nature to have true fear of God and true faith in God. Moreover, this inborn sickness and hereditary sin is truly sin and condemns to the eternal wrath of God

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

PRESBYTERIAN & REFORMED TRADITION

Confession of Faith: "Our first parents, being seduced by the subtlety and temptation of Satan, sinned in eating the forbidden fruit. This their sin, God was pleased, according to his wise and holy counsel, to permit, having purposed to order it to his own glory. By this sin they 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 the soul and body. ...

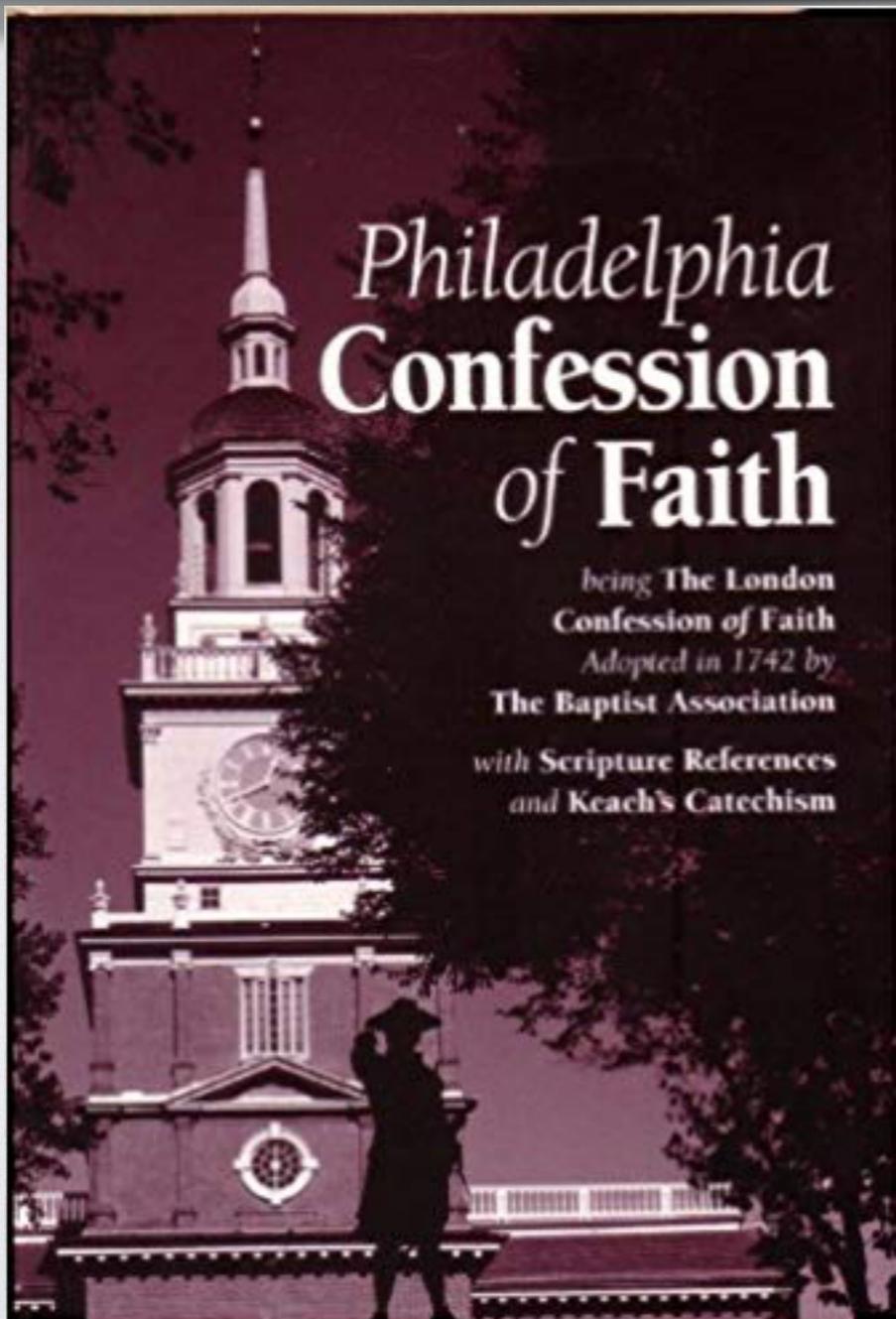
The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

PRESBYTERIAN & REFORMED TRADITION

“... 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.”

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

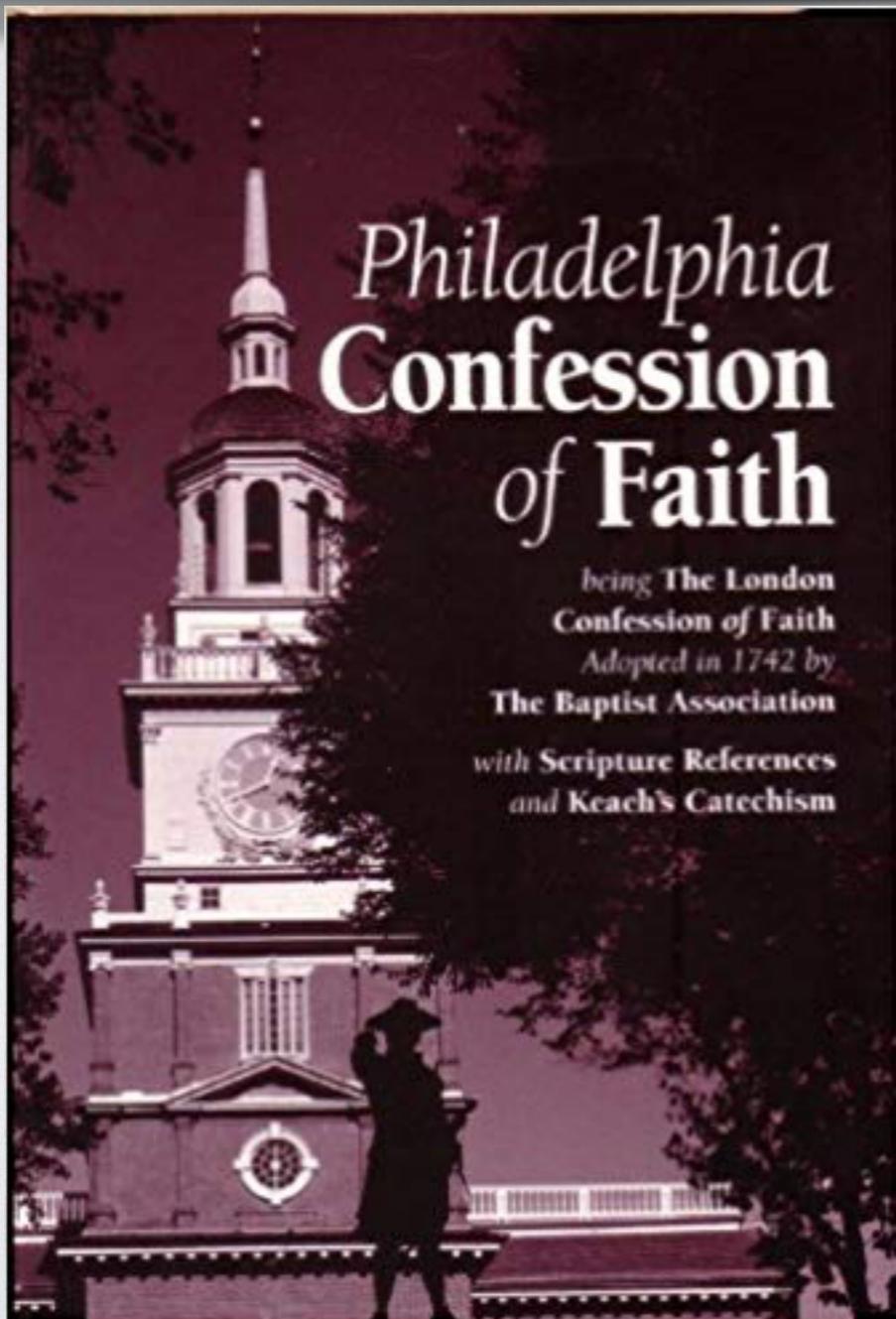
THE BAPTIST CHURCH



▶ "Our first parents by this sin fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and we in them, whereby death came upon all, all becoming dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of the souls and body.

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

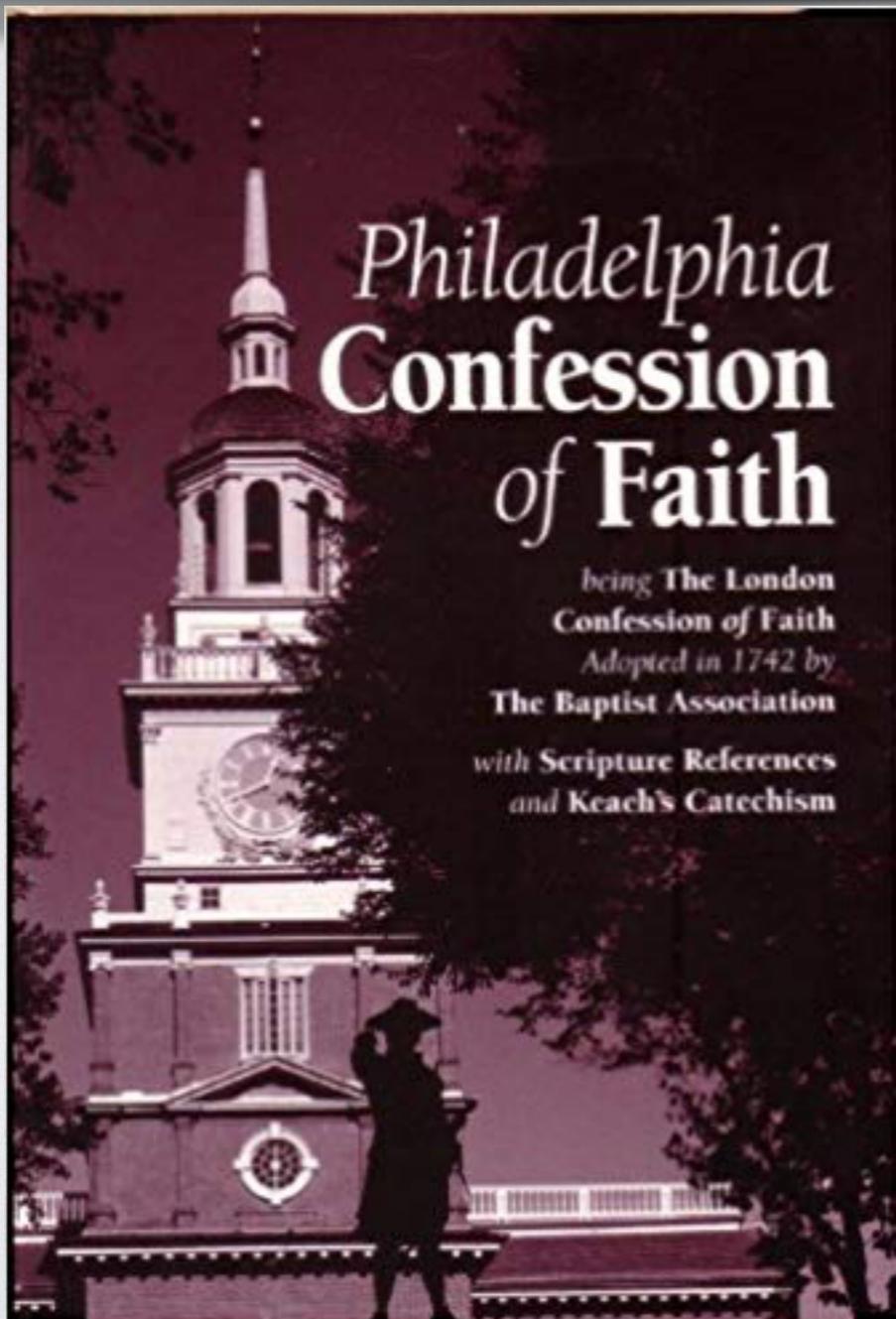
THE BAPTIST CHURCH



- ▶ The guilt of sin was imputed (and corrupt nature conveyed) to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation, being now conceived in sin, the subjects of death and all other spiritual miseries, temporal and eternal, unless the Lord Jesus set them free.

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

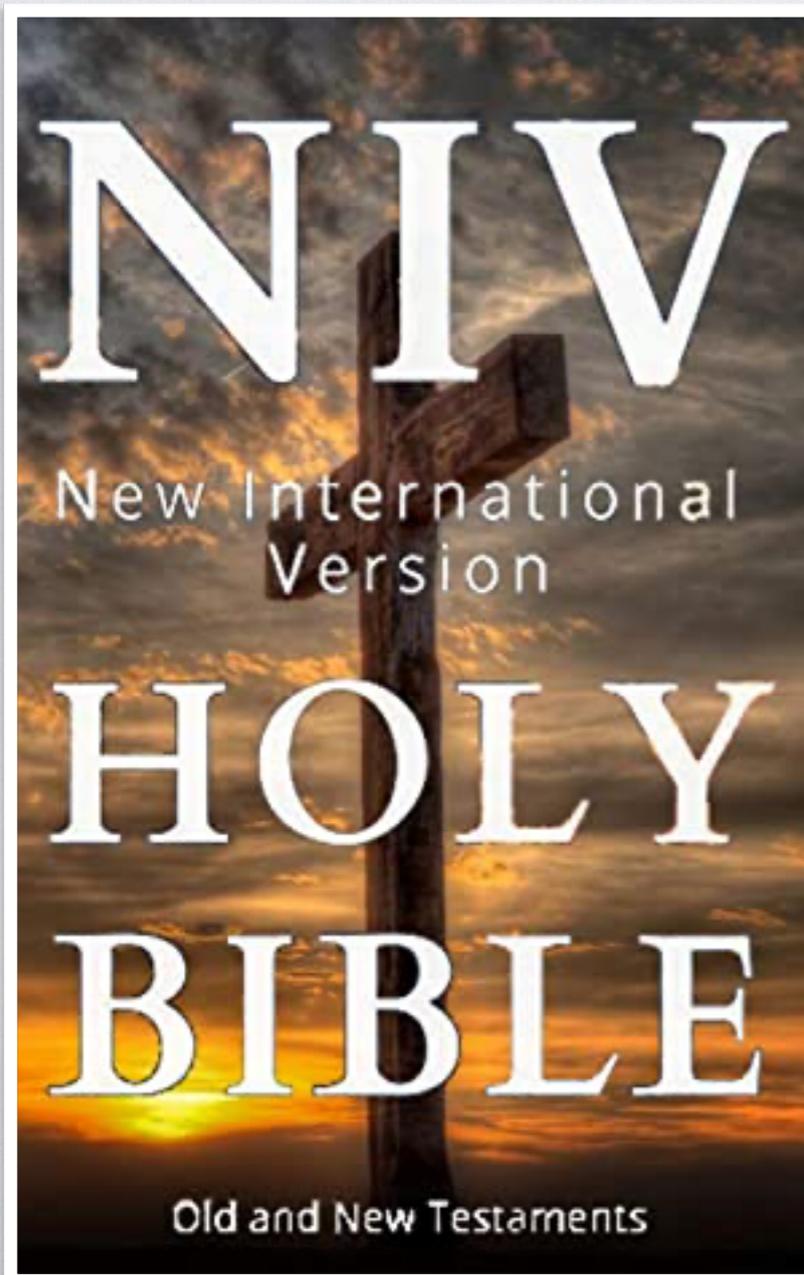
THE BAPTIST CHURCH



▶ From the 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." - (p. 24)

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ORIGINAL VERSION



- ▶ Translated the Greek word “SARX” as “SINFUL FLESH” 27 times in 23 N.T. verses.
- ▶ The word SARX simply means “flesh” - “humans as physical beings—‘people, human being.’” [Lou Nida] (cf. Jn 1:14; Acts 2:31; Rom. 1:3; Rom. 9:5; Eph. 5:30; Col. 1:22; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 5:7; 10:20; 1 Jn 4:3)

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ORIGINAL VERSION



Ferrell Jenkins

“In Romans 1:3 where sarx is used of Christ it is translated "human nature." When sarx is used of man in Romans 7:5, 18, and 25 it is rendered "sinful nature." In Romans 8:3, where sarx is used 3 times, the NIV has it "sinful nature" in the first instance where it refers to man. But when it refers to Christ coming in the "likeness of sinful flesh" (the Greek is sarkos harmatias, flesh of sin), they have used "sinful man." Such haphazard rendering can only be for the purpose of advancing the theological view of total depravity.”

The New International Version's Translation Of Sarax / Ferrell Jenkins / Tampa, Florida

<http://www.truthmagazine.com/archives/volume31/GOT031013.html>

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ORIGINAL VERSION



Jason A. Staples
(Ph.D., UNC-
Chapel Hill)

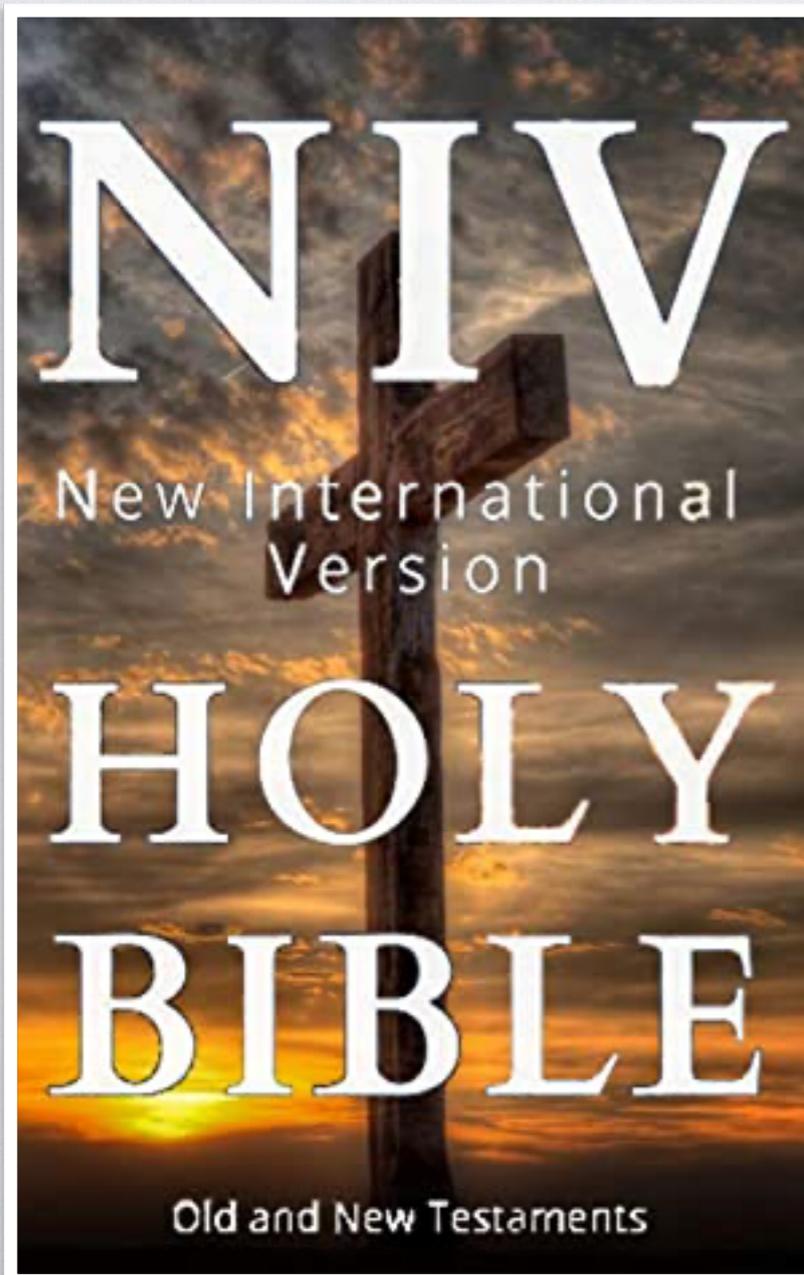
NIV Update 2011 – “Flesh” and Other Translation Issues (November 14, 2010)

My suggestions: 1) First on the list, of course, was my firm agreement with many other scholars that the old NIV’s handling of the Greek word σάρξ (“sarx”) was simply abominable. Put simply, σάρξ (the Greek word for “flesh”) does not mean, nor does it ever mean, “sinful nature,” and by translating it “sinful nature” in many places, the NIV offers a distorted base from which many launch a distorted theological reading of Paul.

<https://www.jasonstaples.com/bible/niv-update-2011-flesh-and-other-translation-issues/>

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL 2011 REVISIONS



“Most occurrences of “sinful nature” have become “flesh.” Especially in Paul, sarx can mean either part or all of the human body or the human being under the power of sin. In an effort to capture this latter sense of the word, the original NIV often rendered sarx as “sinful nature.” (p. 7).

<https://www.biblegateway.com/niv/Translators-Notes.pdf>

Did not change Rom. 7;18 or 25, among a few other inaccurate translations. (7:14)

The INHERITED SINFUL NATURE MYTH

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TEACHES



- > Exodus 32:31-33 - “Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book”
- > Ecclesiastes 7:29 God made man upright, but he has sought out many devices. — (*Man is not depraved when born.*)
- > Isaiah 59:1-8 “Your sins ...”
- > Ezekiel 18:1-32 “The son shall not bear the guilt of the father ...”

THE BIBLE DOES NOT TEACH MEN ARE BORN SINNERS

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

THE BIBLE
CLEARLY
TEACHES



Ezekiel 18:20 (NKJV)
20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

THE BIBLE DOES NOT TEACH MEN ARE BORN SINNERS

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CLEARLY
TEACHES



Matthew 18:2–5 (NKJV)

² Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, ³ and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.

THE BIBLE DOES NOT TEACH MEN ARE BORN SINNERS

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THE BIBLE
CLEARLY
TEACHES



Deuteronomy 1:39

(NKJV)

³⁹ ‘Moreover your little ones and your children, who you say will be victims, who today have no knowledge of good and evil, they shall go in there; to them I will give it, and they shall possess it.

THE BIBLE DOES NOT TEACH MEN ARE BORN SINNERS

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THE BIBLE
CLEARLY
TEACHES



Isaiah 7:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. ¹⁵ Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good.

¹⁶ For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings.

THE BIBLE DOES NOT TEACH MEN ARE BORN SINNERS

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THE BIBLE
CLEARLY
TEACHES



Romans 7:9–11 (NKJV)

⁹ 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*.

THE BIBLE DOES NOT TEACH MEN ARE BORN SINNERS

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THE BIBLE
CLEARLY
TEACHES



1 John 3:4–6 (NKJV)

⁴ Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. ⁵ And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶ Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

THE BIBLE DOES NOT TEACH MEN ARE BORN SINNERS

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

ANSWERING PROPOSED PROOF TEXTS



- ▶ **Gen. 6:5:** The argument: Every intent of man's heart was evil continually, therefore, all men were born totally depraved.
- ▶ **Gen. 6:5:** The answer: - Noah was just, vs 9. - Vs 12 says they had corrupted themselves - How did men call upon the Lord in 4:26?

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

ANSWERING PROPOSED PROOF TEXTS



- ▶ **Psalm 51:1-5: The argument:** “Being conceived in sin and born in iniquity David was a sinner at birth.”
- ▶ **Psalm 51:1-5: The answer:** - The passage does not say David was born a sinner / David confesses HIS SIN & doesn't excuse it / Hyperbole, (cf. Psalm 22:9,10) emphasizing his guilt.

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

ANSWERING PROPOSED PROOF TEXTS



- ▶ **Psalm 58:3:** The argument: “The wicked are estranged (from God) from the womb.
- ▶ **Psalm 58:3:** The answer: - They “go astray.” They are not born wicked / Not babies - “Speaking lies?” ... “stop their ears?” (vv. 4-5). / “Break their teeth in their mouth?” (v. 6)

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

ANSWERING PROPOSED PROOF TEXTS



- ▶ **Romans 3:9-20:** The argument: All the world is guilty of sin before God because they are born in sin.
- ▶ **Romans 3:9-20:** The answer: - both Jews and Gentiles are guilty of sinning against God. - Note “they have turned aside” - “have become unprofitable ...”

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

ANSWERING PROPOSED PROOF TEXTS



Romans 3:10–18 (NKJV)

¹⁰ As it is written: “*There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.*” ...

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

ANSWERING PROPOSED PROOF TEXTS



- ▶ **1 Cor. 2:14:** The argument: “The *natural man* cannot understand & does not accept the things of God because he is inherently sinful.”
- ▶ **1 Cor. 2:14:** The answer: - The natural man is concerned only with material, things & neglects spiritual things / Seeks earthly wisdom & signs, not God’s wisdom and teaching. (1 Cor. 1:18-25)

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

ANSWERING PROPOSED PROOF TEXTS



- ▶ **Romans 5:12-19: The argument:** “The guilt of the sin of Adam, and thus depravity, has been passed unto all people.”
- ▶ **Romans 5:12-19: The answer:** - People are subject to spiritual death because of their own sin. vs. 12 / Vs 17 - life & death conditional. If Adam’s sin brings automatic spiritual death, - Christ’s life would bring automatic spiritual life.

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

ANSWERING PROPOSED PROOF TEXTS



- ▶ **Romans 8:6-7: The argument:** “The “carnal mind” (v. 7), refers to the unconverted ”
- ▶ **Romans 8:6-7: The answer:** - the ones with carnal minds “walk according to the flesh.” It does not state that they are born in sin. ... The carnal mind in the broader context is the mind seeking justification through the Law of Moses ... chapter 7.

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

ANSWERING PROPOSED PROOF TEXTS



▶ **1 Cor. 15:22:** The **argument:** “Adam brought physical death upon all people and every person who dies bears the guilt and penalty of Adam’s sin”

▶ **1 Cor. 15:22:** The **answer:** - Physical death is the penalty imposed upon all humanity - not spiritual death. As many as die because of Adam will be made alive because of Christ ...

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

ANSWERING PROPOSED PROOF TEXTS



- ▶ **Ephesians 2:1-3: The argument:**
“we sin because it is our nature”
- ▶ **Ephesians 2:1-3: The answer:** -
“Nature” in this passage speaks to the result of their practice, not the cause of the practice ... The result of choosing sin and pursuing its follies becomes their habit & “WRATH” is the result

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

THE UNIVERSAL PATH OF SIN



Genesis 3:6 (NKJV)

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

THE UNIVERSAL PATH OF SIN



Joshua 7:21 (NKJV)

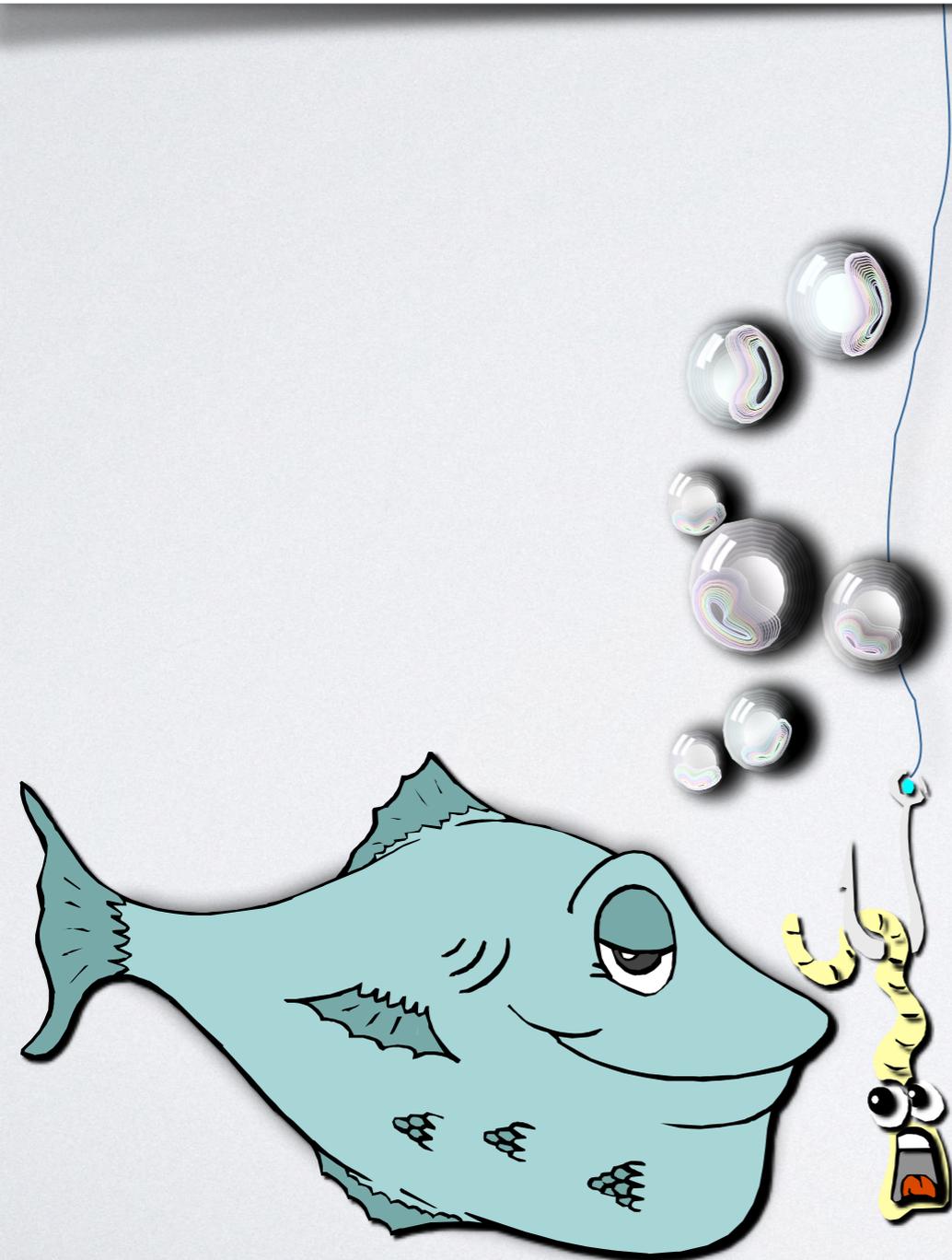
"When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

THE UNIVERSAL PATH OF SIN

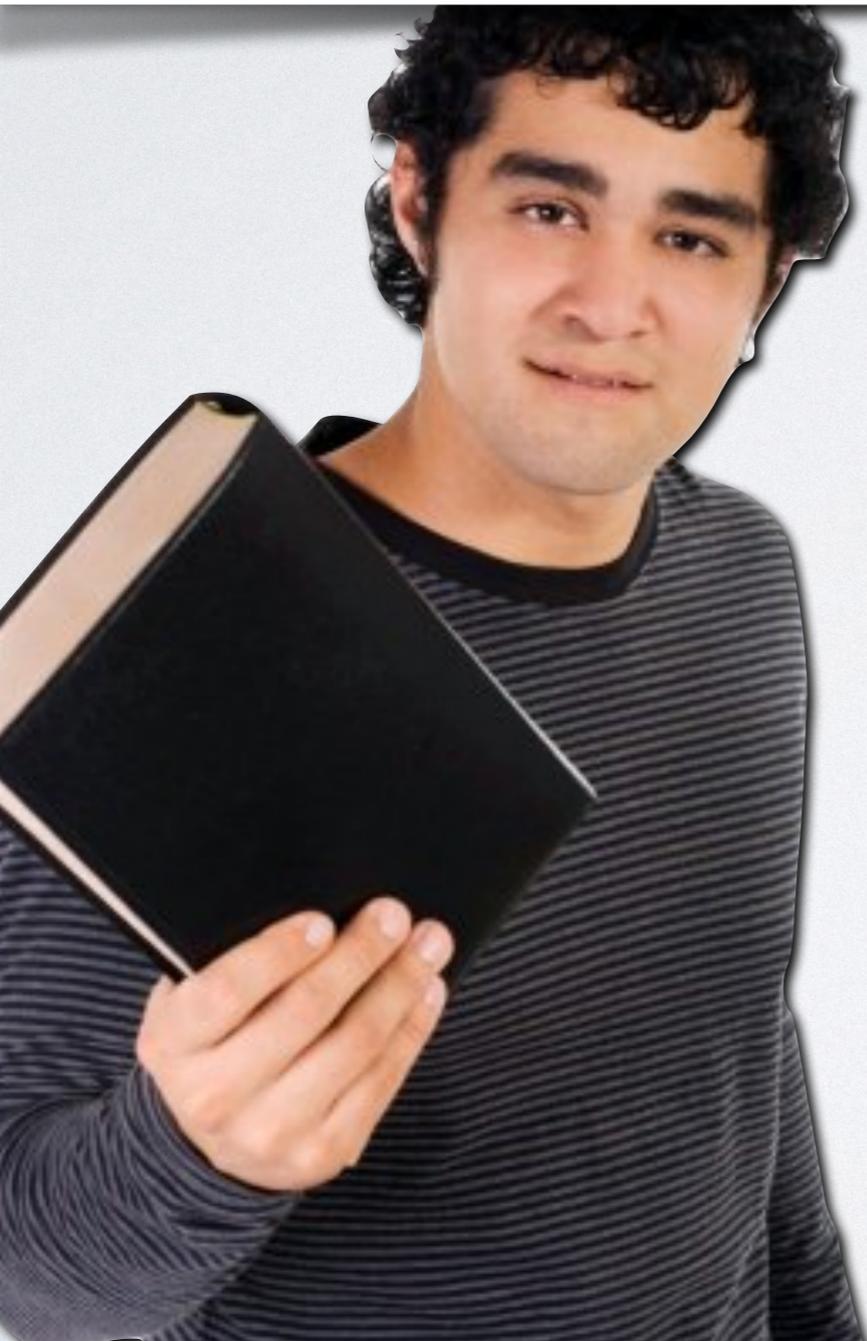
James 1:13–15 (NKJV)

¹³ 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.



The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

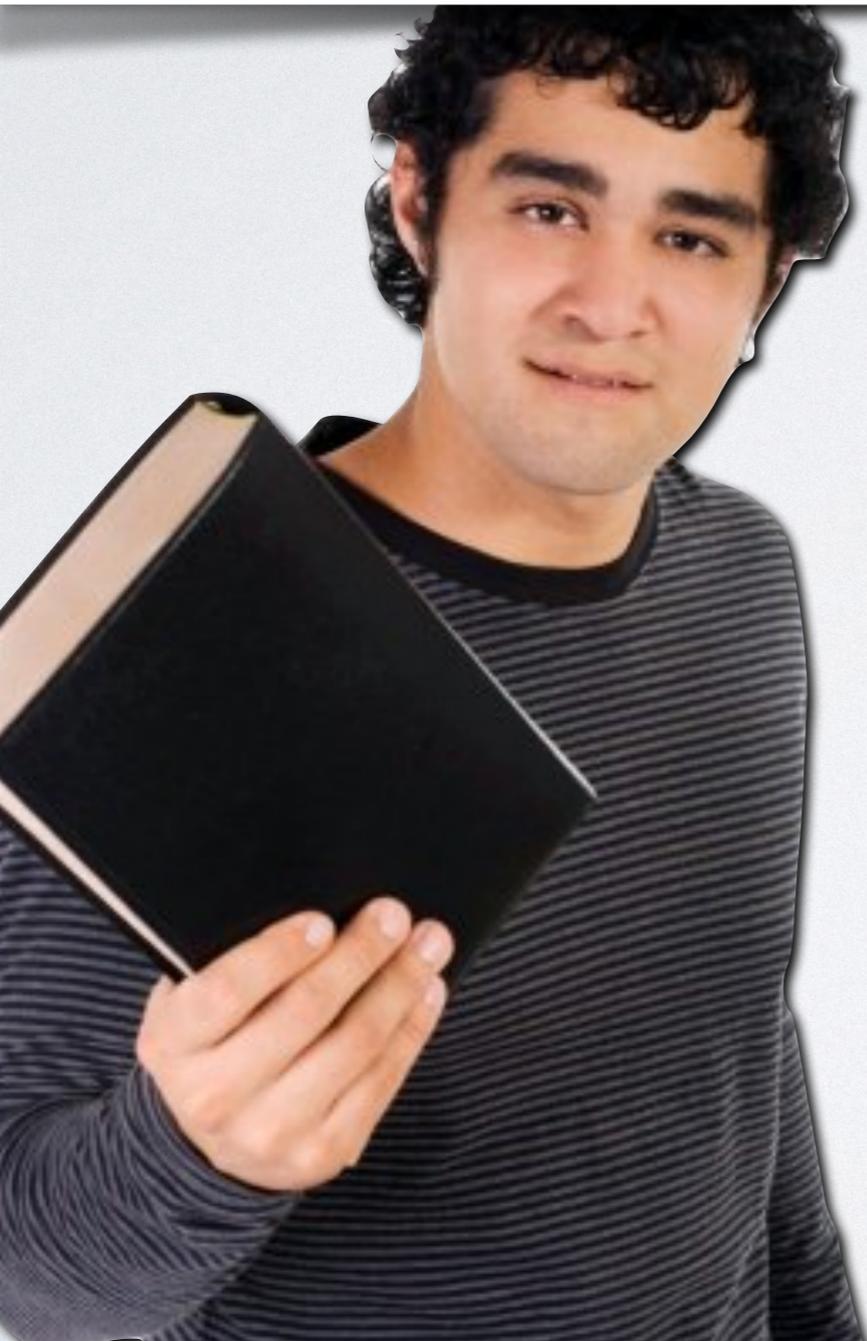
WHY HAVE ALL SINNED?



- ▶ Because we do not fear the consequences of sin (Prov 1:7; 16:6; Jer 2:18; Rom 3:18)
- ▶ Because it often “APPEARS TO BE” easier to sin than to do what is right - It pretends to be a short-cut (Mat 7:13,14)
- ▶ Because of habit (2 Pet 2:14)
- ▶ Because of the momentary pleasure which sin brings (Heb 11:25; Jas 5:5)
- ▶ Because of its deceptiveness (Heb 3:13)

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

WHY HAVE ALL SINNED?



- ▶ Not watchful (Mat. 26:41, Gal. 6:1).
- ▶ Lack self-control (1 Cor. 9:27).
- ▶ Fit in with crowd, (Prov. 1:10; 1 Cor. 15:33; 1 Tim. 5:22).
- ▶ Fail to control our thoughts (Prov. 22:3; 15:26, 23:7, Phil 4:8).
- ▶ Do not resist the devil (Jas. 4:7).
- ▶ Do not have the Word hidden in our heart (Ps. 119:11).
- ▶ WE LACK FAITH IN GOD & IN HIS WORD - JUST LIKE EVE! (Gen 3:1-6)

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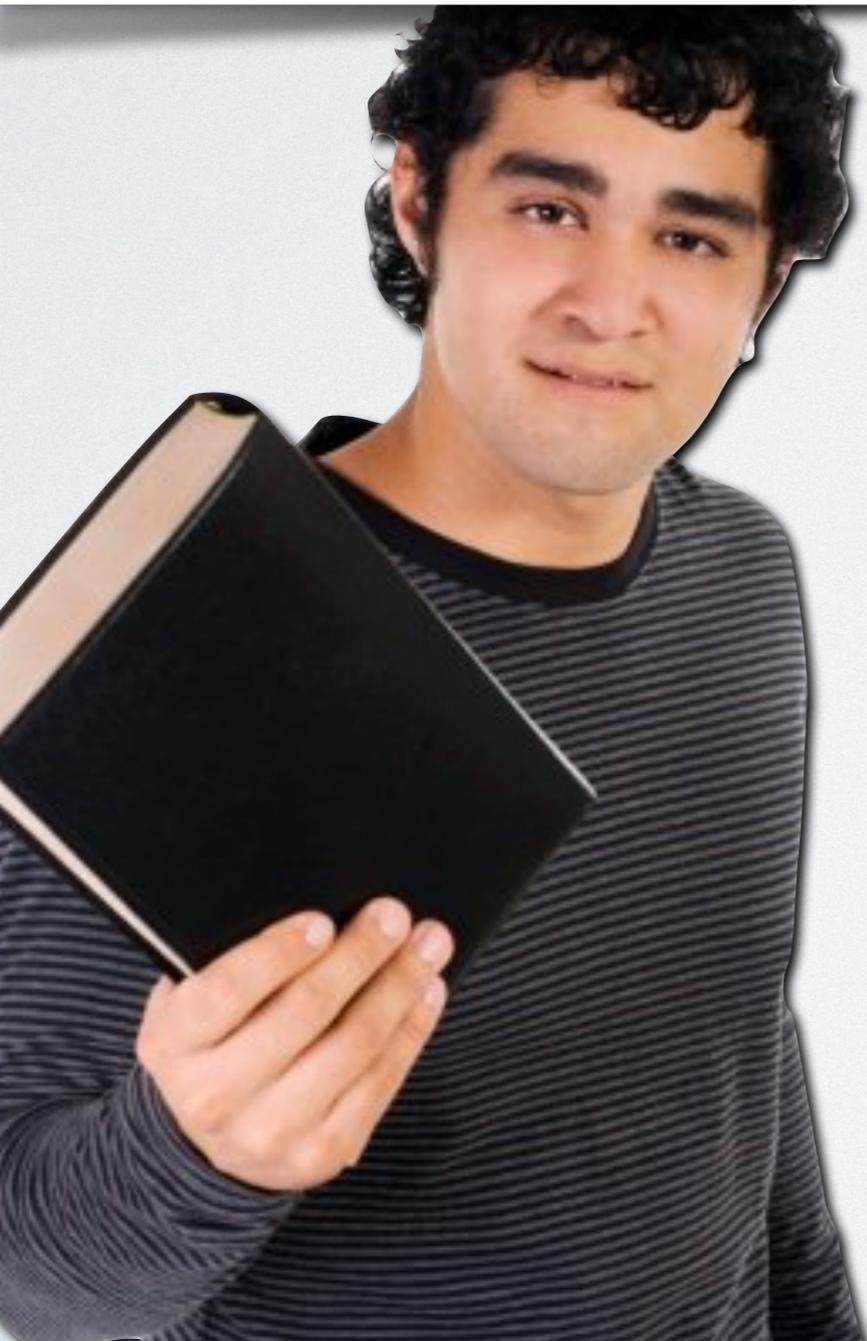
WE CAN SAY NO TO SIN



James 4:7 (NKJV)
7 Therefore submit to
God. Resist the devil
and he will flee from
you.

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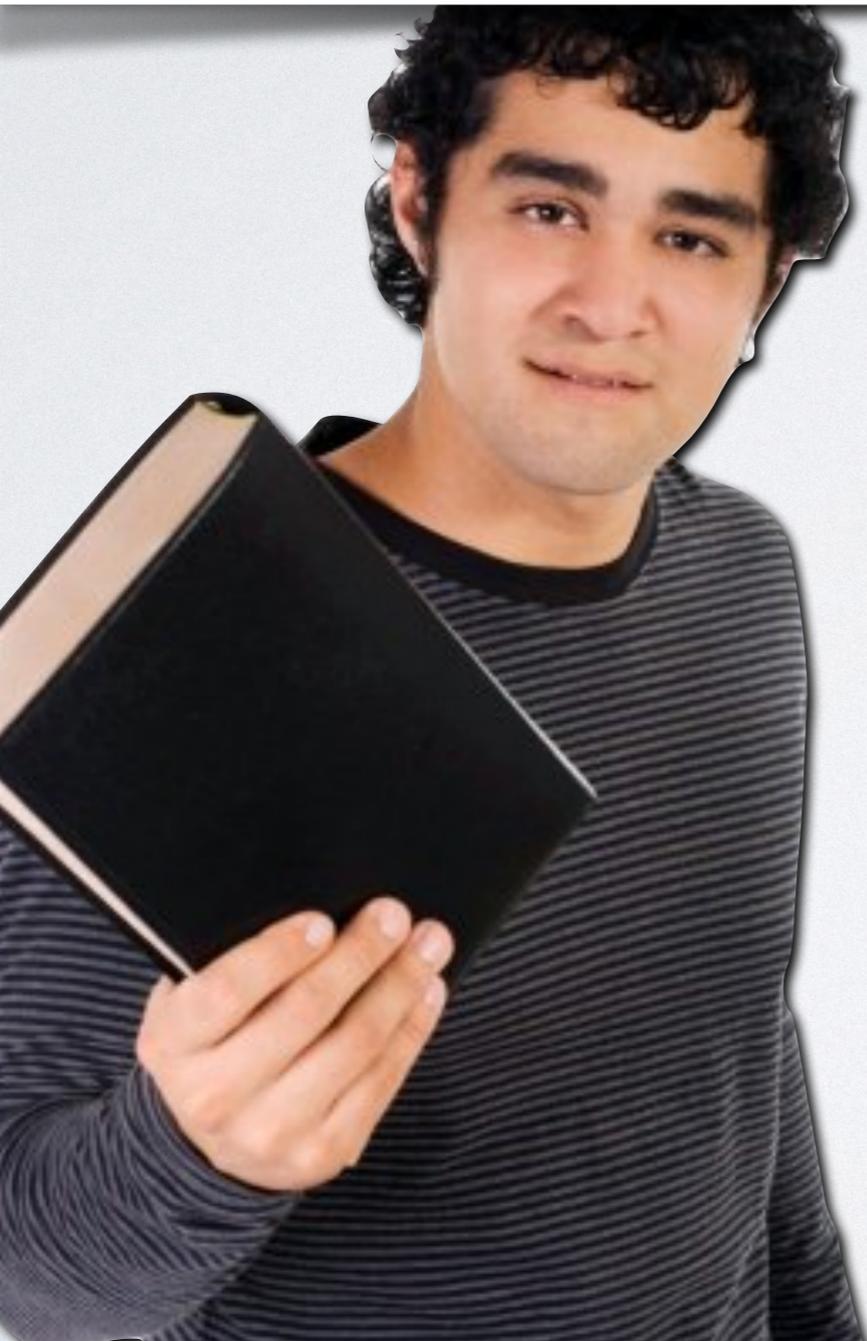
WE CAN SAY NO TO SIN



1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)
13 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*.

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

WE ARE MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

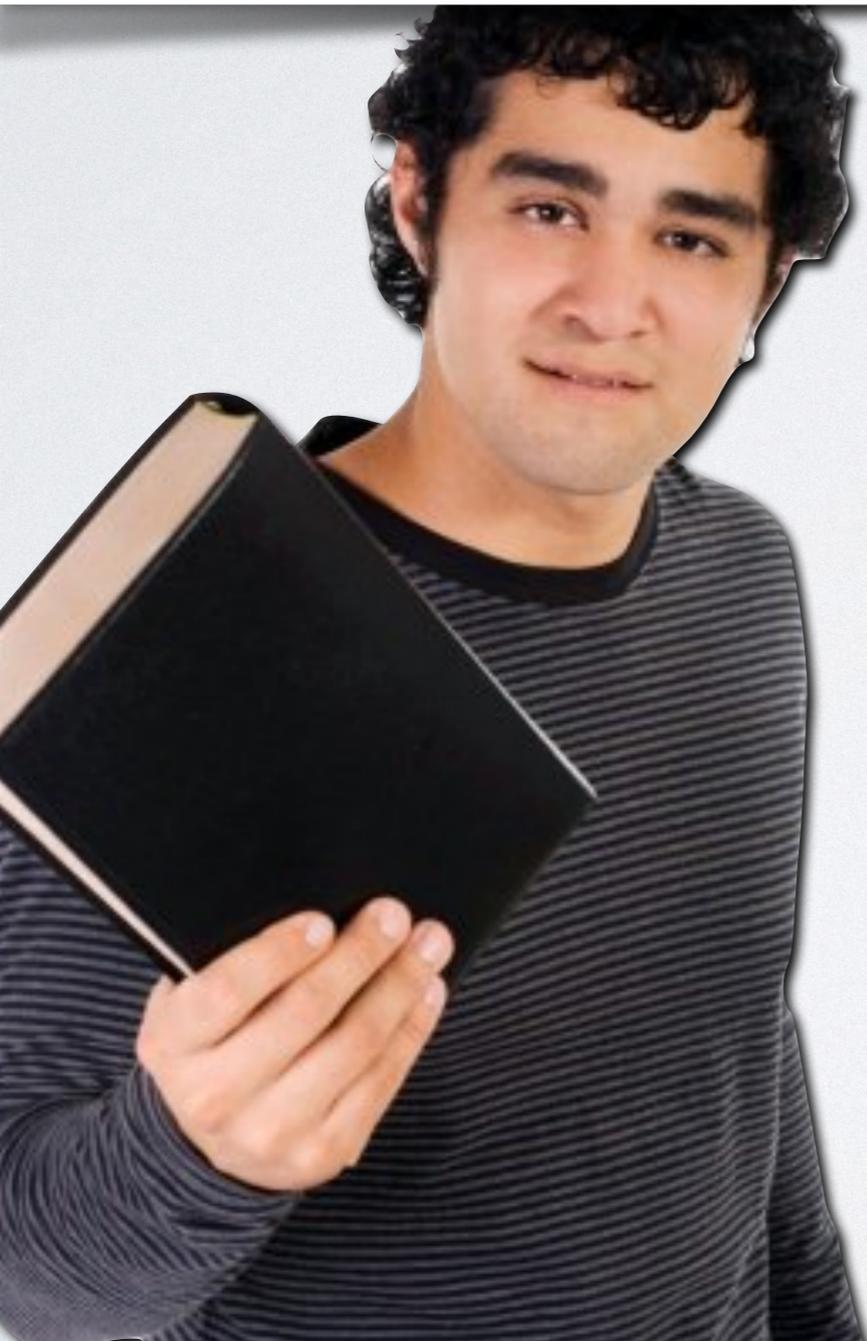


God is the author of the nature that we are born with. (Gen. 1:26-27; 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; James 3:9)

Neither Adam nor the devil forms our nature.

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

WE ARE MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE



The Bible says that God personally forms our constitution in the womb:

“Thy hands have made me and fashioned me” (Psalm 119:73).

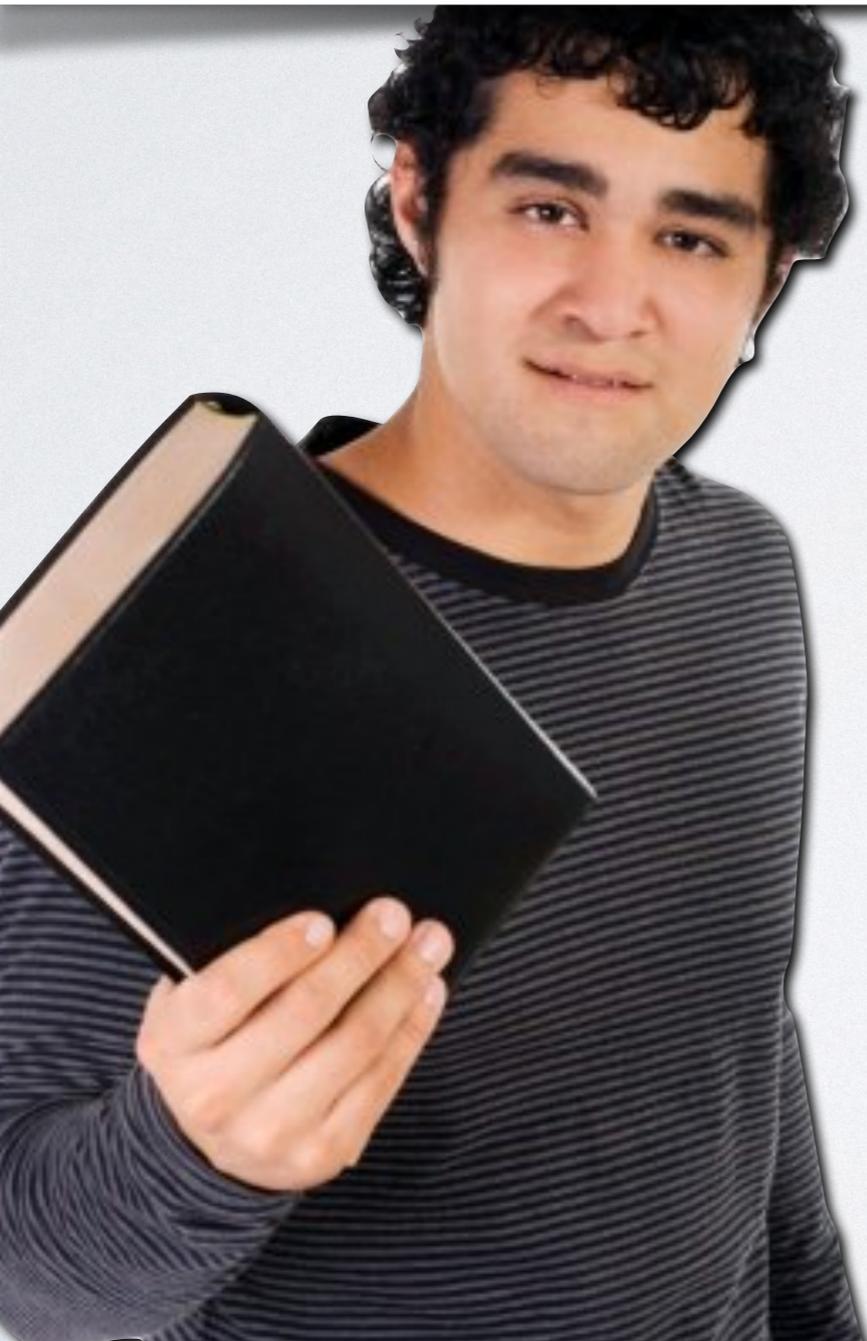
“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works...” (Ps. 139:14).

The

INHERITED MYTH

SINFUL NATURE

CONCLUSION



- ▶ The doctrine of men being born with a “sinful nature” began, not in the mind of God, but in the mind of a mistaken theologian.
- ▶ We do not inherit the sin of our parents, Adam or anyone else.
- ▶ A person becomes a sinner when he violates God’s law not when he is born — **THUS THE GUILT IS OUR OWN!**

The INHERITED MYTH SINFUL NATURE

GOD HAS PROVIDED THE REMEDY FOR SIN!



- ▶ Yes, we have all sinned because we have all yielded to temptation (Rom. 3:23)
- ▶ Therefore, we all need a Savior to deliver us from the bondage of our sin (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8,9)
- ▶ Salvation is provided by God's grace, and received through our faith (Eph. 2:8,9; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Col. 2:12,13; Gal. 3:26,27)

The

INHERITED SINFUL NATURE MYTH

Charts by Don McClain

Preached December 5, 2021

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Prepared using Keynote

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Our Website: w65stchurchofchrist.com

James 1:12–18 (NKJV)

¹² Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³ 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. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.