

Reformed Doctrine, Chapter VI Of the Fall of Man, of Sin, and of the Punishment Thereof

I.

Adam and Eve the parents of mankind were seduced by Satan to eat the forbidden fruit.¹ This sin God permitted having already purposed to order it to His glory.

II.

Adam and Eve by this sin fell from their original state of righteousness and communion with God.² Because of their sin they became dead in sin.³ This fall from righteousness defiled every part and aspect of their lives to include all parts and faculties of soul and body.⁴

III.

Because Adam and Eve were the first human beings they are the root or beginning of man on earth. As the representatives of all who would come after them their sin was imputed⁵ to all to come after them by ordinary generation.⁶

IV.

From this original sin all human beings were totally indisposed, disabled, and made the opposite of all good.⁷ Man was inclined to all evil by his nature.⁸ From this fallen nature of man because of the original sin all actual transgressions are born and proceed from it.⁹

V.

The corruption of the human nature by sin during life remains even in the regenerated.¹⁰ It is pardoned through Christ and subdued; both the nature and actions flowing from this nature are truly and properly sin.¹¹

VI.

Every transgression of the law of God is sin whether original or actual.¹² Each sin brings guilt to the sinner¹³ and he is under the wrath of God¹⁴ and the curse of the law.¹⁵

¹ Gen. 3:13; II Cor. 11:3

² Gen. 3:6-8; Rom. 3:23

³ Gen. 2:17; Eph. 2:1-3; see Rom. 5:12

⁴ Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Titus 1:15; Rom. 3:10-19

⁵ Acts. 17:26; Rom. 5:12, 15-19; I Cor. 15:21-22, 49

⁶ Psa. 51:5; John 3:6; Gen. 5:3; Job 15:14

⁷ Rom. 5:6; 7:18; 8:7; Col. 1:21

⁸ Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Rom. 3:10-12

⁹ Matt. 15:19; James 1:14-15; Eph. 2:2-3

¹⁰ Prov. 20:9; Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 7:14, 17-18, 21-23; I John 1:8, 10

¹¹ Rom. 7:7-8, 25; Gal. 5:17

¹² I John 3:4

¹³ Rom. 2:15; 3:9, 19

¹⁴ Eph. 2:3

¹⁵ Gal. 3:10

Thereby all humanity is subject to death because of sin.¹⁶ because of sin all miseries whether temporal,¹⁷ spiritual,¹⁸ or eternal¹⁹ exist.

Questions

1. What is the sentence under God's righteous wrath for all sin without regard to quantity, circumstance, or severity?
2. What does impute mean?
3. How can the sins of Adam and Eve be accounted to all human kind?
4. Does original sin or actual sin continue to work in a person who has been regenerated by the Holy Spirit?
5. To what extent does the corruption of the human nature extend because of original sin?
6. Why is God not the author of sin when the Bible says God created all things to include evil?
7. Why cannot God be the author of Sin?
8. What word do we use to mean God's ordering of all things?
9. What is the purpose of God ordering all things ?

¹⁶ Rom. 6:23

¹⁷ Rom. 8:20; Lam. 3:39

¹⁸ Eph. 4:18

¹⁹ Matt. 25:41; II Thess. 1:9