

UNMASKING BIBLE TRUTHS School

Are people born with a sin nature?

Is "original sin" a true Bible doctrine?

Lesson 3

LEONARD RAVENHILL ON ORIGINAL SIN

From the message "Take Time to be Holy"

"But you say every child that comes into the world, the Lord puts the devil in him and then sends him to hell for having the devil in him eh?

Well that's hardly justice.

I heard a statement the other day where one man said "Remember now, you're responsible for Adam's guilt."

Can there be anything more insane?

Can any judge condemn me for what my father did? Surely not!

Now the greatest preacher America ever had in my judgment is Charles Finney and he did not believe in Original Sin.

He believed that every child was born innocent and acquired depravity in the time he decided to run his own life." ~ Leonard Ravenhill

This teaching today is quite thorough, however is not even exhaustive

You will be able to find this teaching on our website as well as a much more exhaustive teaching on the subject called: **"OVER ONE HUNDRED TEXTS FROM THE BIBLE**

THAT SHOW THE DOCTRINE OF ORIGINAL SIN IS UNBIBLICAL AND FALSE" from www.gospeltruth.net

Question, did we inherit Adams sin? Were we born with a sin nature?

No! God could never create man with a sinful nature!

God is light and in him is no darkness at all! God cannot be tempted with evil not does He tempt any man!

He is perfect in all his ways. He is just and righteous and without iniquity.

Only good and perfect gifts come down from him.

How wrong it is for men to charge him with creating sinners!

So please let me have your undivided attention here

Although all men have an innate and genuine thirst after truth and corresponding disgust for error, there may exist, strange as it may seem, extreme opposition to the acceptance of certain truths—

Even an absolute hatred of these truths, because they differ from what we now believe, because they require changes in us which we do not want to make because they require the confession that we have been mistaken and have held error--so the mind will not give them fair treatment—

The mind then hardens against these truths and imposes unjust tests and will not give them the courtesy of fair and respectful attention.

Prejudices, vicious habits of thought, pride of opinion and of denominational belief, ignorance, suspicion, bigotry, blind following of religious and denominational leaders so cloud and numb the mind that it cannot and will not see its own errors, or the truth of others--when with a little unprejudiced examination the truth could be seen.

So I ask you, as always, to open up your heart to the absolute truth of the Bible today

Let the Word of God speak for itself and clear out any and all false beliefs that may be revealed

There are over one hundred texts from the Bible that show that little babies are created upright and in the image and likeness of God, and that it is impossible for them to be sinners until they have reached the "age of accountability" and know the difference between good and evil.

We will only present several today...

And let me say doctrine is of eternal importance...1Tim.4:16

So, how did this horrible doctrine come into being?

Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD) was historically reckoned one of the key church fathers who lead in the development of Christian theology. However, he introduced many heresy's instead.

One such heresy is his concept of "Original Sin".

Now along with the guilt of sin, Augustine proposes also a sinful nature was passed down through Adam.

John Calvin - a disciple of Augustine - summarized the Augustinian view of the sinful nature with his term "Total Depravity".

That is, people are born so totally morally corrupt that they **have no control over their behavior** and can do nothing of themselves but sin.

Now we must believe that anything that detracts from Truth is considered heresy.

Doctrines of men fit that description, as Christ said; 'You make the Commandments of God of no effect by your doctrines and traditions of men'.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ requires active participation and obedience, the total destruction of sin, striving, counting the cost, putting your hand to the plow and going on to sin no more.

There is no mention in Christ teachings or the Apostles teachings about anything called 'original sin', or a dual nature that limits man's ability to do as God commanded.

I want you to hear this, especially you Ministers

Ministers who believe this doctrine will have a tendency to wink at and excuse sin in their churches

The whole tendency of this doctrine is to beget an indulgent spirit toward sin, and the low, unscriptural standard of religion that actually exists in many churches today

I want you to hear this, most churches have lowered...instead of raising the standard high to God's standard!

They're too busy white washing walls...

[Not born with sin nature](#) – Gen.1:27 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

"Man...is the image and glory of God." I Corinthians 11:7

Acts 17:29 Therefore, since we are the offspring of God...

Ecc.7:29 Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes."

Here are four very plain Scriptures that contradict being born with a sin nature

And the Bible NEVER contradicts itself!

We are created in the image of God, we are the image and glory of God, we are the offspring of God and we are created upright until we seek out many schemes.

If we went no farther than this, we could end the class right here! But continuing...

Men Must Go Against Their Nature To Sin

All disobedience to God's law goes against the nature God has created us with. In **Romans 2:14-15**, every time we sin, whatever that sin may be, we are sinning against the law of God written in our hearts.

And this is a sin against our nature. All sin is against our nature. All righteousness conforms to the nature we are born with:

"(They) do by nature the things contained in the law." **Romans 2:14**

(They) show the work of the law written in their hearts." **Romans 2:15**

So the Scriptures that are used to prove we are born with a sin nature are twisted and taken out of context!

Now we're going to look at the six proof texts that are twisted to prove we are born with a sin nature

SIX PROOF-TEXTS EXAMINED:

1. Ps 51:5: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

The first thing we need to understand here is, David was speaking of his mother, NOT himself!

"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me."

David's mother was not married!

Furthermore, this text is not literal, it is figurative. For example, let us compare **Psalm 51:5** with **Job 1:21**: "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither."

If **Psalm 51:5** can be interpreted literally to teach the doctrine that David and all other men are born sinners, then **Job 1:21** can also be interpreted literally to teach the doctrine that Job and all other men will go back into their mother's womb: "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither."

Neither **Psalm 51:5** nor **Job 1:21** should be understood literally. Both texts are figurative expressions.

The Psalmist David uses figurative language throughout his Psalms; and he uses several figurative expressions in **Psalm 51**.

Verses **five, seven, and eight** of **Psalm 51** are all figurative expressions.

"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean." **Psalm 51:7**

"Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice." **Psalm 51:8**

And another Psalm, **Psalm 58:3**, can be used to teach the astonishing doctrine that all babies talk and tell lies from the very moment of their birth:

"The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies." **Psalm 58:3**

But, who would teach from this last text the doctrine that babies really do speak as soon as they are born?

None of these passages should be taken literally.

2. Psalm 58:3: "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies."

This text is supposed to teach that babies are born sinners; but like **Psalm 51:5** it is figurative and not literal. If it were literal, it would teach that babies speak and tell lies as soon as they are born, and

that they alienate themselves from God and go astray from him immediately upon coming out of the womb.

But all of this is clearly contrary to reality.

We know that babies do not do any of these things at birth.

Therefore it is clear that this language is not to be understood literally. If this verse taught that Babies literally came forth from their mother's womb "estranged from God," it would contradict other passages from the Bible that teach that babies are not "estranged from God" at birth.

John the baptist was not "estranged from God from his mother's womb."

On the contrary, the angel who announced his birth said, "He shall be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb." Luke 1:15.

This fact is hard to reconcile with a literal interpretation of Psalms 51:5 and 58:3.

Job also testified that he was a guide to the widow "from his mother's womb." Job 31:18.

Job obviously did not mean that from the moment he was a helpless newborn infant that he had been ministering to the needs of the widow.

Also, the Psalmist David himself testified that God had been his help "from the womb." Psalm 71:6.

It is easy to see that the phrase "from the womb" is often used in a figurative sense and should not always be understood in its literal sense.

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3. Ephesians 2:3: "And were by nature the children of wrath."

This text is torn completely from its context to teach the horrifying doctrine that little babies are sinners, and condemned and under the wrath of God from birth!

But the word "nature" in this text has nothing to do with "birth" and neither does it have anything to do with "babies."

It is speaking of adults and it is speaking of the wicked character of adults.

For example, he calls the attention of the believers in Ephesians 2:1-2 to the fact that before their conversion they had lived in trespasses and sins, and walked in every kind of wickedness, in company with other sinners: "And you **were** dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you **formerly walked** according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience."

Then, he continues in verse three speaking of their participation with other sinners in carnality and wickedness: "Among them we too all **formerly lived** in the lusts of our flesh, **indulging the desires** of the flesh and of the mind, and **were** by nature children of wrath, even as the rest."

It was only after he had described their past life of wicked works that he summed up the guilt and ill desert of their past life with the words: "And WERE by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

We know by the immediate context of this text (as well as the context of the whole Bible) that Ephesians 2:3 is not speaking of being born a sinner or being born under the wrath of God.

The word "nature" in the Bible, when it refers to what we are by birth, never refers to a sinful nature. This is made manifest by Romans 2:14:

"The Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law."

Now the word "nature" in the above text does refer to the nature that we receive at birth.

Children -

Mk.10:14 But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the **little children** come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

Mt.19:14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Mt.18:3 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.

Surely the Lord was not suggesting that we become as little, totally corrupt sinners!

Rom.2:14 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

Ecc.7:29 Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes."

Rom.7:9 I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died;

Age of accountability...So you see, no one has a "sin nature" until one takes on the nature of sin!

4. Job 14:4: "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one."

This text is supposed to teach that sinful parents cannot help but bear sinful children.

But this interpretation completely ignores the context of this text.

The context shows that Job had his eyes wholly on the frail and dying state of man, and not at all upon his moral state.

The whole sense of what Job was saying was that "no one can bring other than frail and dying offspring from frail and dying parents."

(See the context in **Job 14:1-6**)

If this text teaches that a sinner invariably produces another sinner, it teaches blasphemy.

For if the doctrine of original sin is true, Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus was also born a sinner.

And if Job 14:4 really does teach that a sinner must produce another sinner, there could be no way of escaping the blasphemous conclusion that our Lord also was born a sinner.

Therefore the doctrine that men are born sinners is false; for it makes Jesus a sinner or one has to deny that he was a real man.

But the Bible teaches that Christ was a real man like all other men, born with the same human nature as all other men and a true descendant of Adam, Abraham, and David:

the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.
Luke 3:38

Rom. "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh." **Romans 1:3**

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our infirmities; but one who has been in all points tempted like we are, yet without sin. **Hebrews 4:15**

For many deceivers have gone forth into the world, even those who do not confess that Jesus Christ comes in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. **2 John 7**

John 1:14

Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; 8 and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death,

yes, the death of the cross. 9 Therefore also God highly exalted him, and gave to him the name which is above every name; 10 that in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things on earth and things under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Php. 2:5-14**

HalleluYah! Jesus Christ is God and He came in the form of a man and he WAS NOT born a sinner and NEITHER were you!

5. Job 15:14: "What is man that he should be clean? And he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?"

First, these are the words of Eliphaz, and cannot be quoted as inspired truth. God himself testified that Job's comforters did not hold the truth. (See Job 42:7)

But suppose we did accept this verse as inspired truth, what does it teach?

It teaches nothing at all about a morally depraved physical constitution. It merely implies the sinful condition of all mankind without saying anything about how man got that way.

But again, this text, like the last, if used to teach the constitutional sinfulness of men, would teach the blasphemy that our Lord Jesus was born a sinner, because he was a man and was born of a woman

6. Rom.5:12: Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned –

13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

We see death spread to all men through the one man's (Adam's) sin. People are not responsible for sin unto they sin, "because all sinned".

Then Paul speaks of death reigning from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam.

So if all people are responsible for Adam's sin, how could there be even one who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam?

If we were born with a sinful nature not one sin would be against our nature but every sin would agree with and be in harmony with our nature.

So the fact that all sin is against our nature proves that we are not born with a sinful nature.

People who believe we are born with a sin nature can use every excuse under the sun for committing sin!

Well, I was born that way! I can't help myself! This blames our Creator for creating us with a sin nature, and God is totally antagonistic against sin with every fiber of His great moral being!

I believe many people have believed this out of ignorance, however the very idea that God would create man a sinner is a monstrous blasphemy against the holy and righteous character of God.

God is perfect in justice, holiness, and love.

And it would be the greatest injustice possible to create men sinners and then condemn them to hell for the nature that he himself had created them with.

God is perfect and could never work such injustice:

Deut. 32:3-6, 18 " For I proclaim the name of the Lord: Ascribe greatness to our God.

⁴ *He is* the Rock, His work *is* perfect; For all His ways *are* justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright *is* He.

⁵ "They have corrupted themselves; *They are* not His children, Because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation.

⁶ Do you thus deal with the Lord, O foolish and unwise people? *Is* He not your Father, *who* bought you? Has He not made you and established you?

18 Of the Rock *who* begot you, you are unmindful, And have forgotten the God who fathered you."

This text affirms that God has had nothing to do with the sins of his people: he did not create them sinners; he is holy, just, and righteous and cannot work evil, falsehood, or injustice:

" His work *is* perfect; For all His ways *are* justice, A God of truth and without injustice (or iniquity); Righteous and upright *is* He." He has not created his children with sin.

His children have corrupted themselves!

"For the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth." Genesis 8:21

Direct Quotations, That Are Not Taught In The Bible

"Our nature sinned in Adam." And, "It was just, that after our nature had sinned...we should be born animal and carnal." Augustine

"Our nature there transformed for the worse, not only became a sinner, but also begets sinners." Augustine

"Unconscious infants, dying without baptism, are damned by virtue of their inherited guilt." Augustine

"From this condemnation no one is exempt, not even newborn children." Augustine

"The 'nature and essence' of man is, from his birth, an evil tree and a child of wrath." Martin Luther

"Even children, dying unbaptized, are lost." Martin Luther

"Original sin is the hereditary depravity and corruption of our nature...which first makes us subject to the wrath of God, and then produces in us works which the Scripture calls works of the flesh." Calvin

"The sin of Adam is the immediate cause and ground of inborn depravity, guilt, and condemnation to the whole human race." A. H. Strong, Systematic Theology, p. 611

"This evil tendency or inborn determination to evil, since it is the real cause of actual sins, must itself be sin, and as such must be guilty and condemnable." A. H. Strong, Systematic Theology, p. 611

I wonder if even Christian men really know that God is holy, just, and good!

I wonder if they know that GOD IS LOVE and that he could never create men sinners and then condemn them to everlasting punishment for the nature that he himself had given them!

Christian men ought not to ascribe such cruelty, wickedness, and injustice to God.

God is good and perfect and could never work such injustice.

I close with this:

Certain truths are self-evident. They are direct perceptions of the reason and are therefore known to be true by all men:

A thing cannot both exist and not exist at the same time. Two contradictory declarations cannot both be true.

One is the truth and one is a lie!

The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. The whole cannot be greater than the sum of its parts. Every effect must have a cause.

And a creation implies a creator.

Moral character is non-transferable. There are no proxies in morals.

Sin cannot be imputed, in other words held against anyone where it does not exist without injustice.

Perfect justice cannot punish the innocent for the guilt of another.

All sin is personal and non-transferable.

There is so much more we could teach on this, but I believe we're given enough Scriptural proof...

People of God, it is our earnest desire that you take these things and run with them!

Lets destroy this terrible heresy that people are born sinners

You church leaders out there, I want you to hear this!

We challenge you to take these apostolic truths to your congregations and preach and teach them until every single person is convinced of the truth of God's Word on this!

Lets stop making God a liar by teaching all people are born with a sin nature in Jesus name! Amen!!