

LOST  
(Part 5 of 6)

Fifth, man is considered lost and dead because his relationship to sin condemns him. Sin is a forgotten word in our modern day language. Man has invented different terms to take its place. But God calls it sin. Sin is any lack of conformity to the character and will of God.

The Bible declares that man sinned in Adam. Paul wrote, “Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” (Romans 5:12). After Adam sinned, he and his descendants could only bring forth people with the same nature – a sin nature. Therefore, all men are under the sentence of death, the penalty of sin. When Adam sinned, every man (potentially present in the genetic makeup of Adam) sinned. When Adam sinned, you sinned in him. When Adam sinned, I sinned in him. God reckons Adam’s sin to be your sin and my sin. If we had been in the garden instead of Adam, we would have done the very same thing that Adam and Eve did. We are just like Adam, bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh.

When Adam sinned, he died spiritually and he began to die physically. The processes of death (corruption) and mortality set into his body. His state of spiritual death became immediately evident by his shame and his hiding from God. Genesis records, “And the eyes of them both were opened [Adam and Eve now have a keen sense of guilt, something has changed.], and they knew [A new knowledge that they did not have before eating the forbidden fruit.] that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day; and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden” (Genesis 3:7-8).

This is a difficult truth but a scriptural one. Men are lost because they have sinned in Adam. David understood this principle when he wrote: “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me” (Psalm 51: 5). Psalm 58 says, “The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies” (Psalm 58:3). The word shapen in Psalm 51:5 teaches that from the moment of conception a person possesses a sinful nature. In the field of theology this is called the study of inborn sin, or the depravity of man. Men are guilty of sin because they have inherited a sin nature from their ancestral father, Adam. In Genesis 1:24 the principle “after his kind” is indelibly written into God’s created world. For example, dogs beget dogs, cats beget cats, cattle beget cattle, and sinful men beget sinful men.

No children were born to Adam and Eve before their fall, but after the fall, the brothers Cain and Abel were born. Were they born with a sin nature? Did they have inborn sin? The Bible answers these questions very graphically: “And Cain talked with Abel his

brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew [killed] him” (Genesis 4:8). Adam’s sons were begotten in his likeness and image (Genesis 5:3). They were no different than Adam was – no worse, no better – in their position before God. Adam sinned; so they sinned. Adam died; so they died.

The Bible depicts man as being morally and spiritually depraved. Negatively speaking, depravity does not mean that man is as bad as he could be. No man has ever put into practice the full potential of his sin nature. Positively speaking, depravity means that there is nothing in man that will merit God’s approval. It means that in man there is a total absence of holiness without which no man shall see God (Hebrews 12:14). Depravity is true of man’s total being – his intellect, his emotions, and his will. There is nothing that he can think, feel, or do, that will produce God’s type of righteousness within his life. And this is true of every man who has ever lived. Paul said, “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.” Paul said in another verse: “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God:” (Romans 3:10, 23). Therefore, man is considered lost and dead because of his relationship to sin.

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