

THE NAME OF THE LORD LXVIII

AMNOS TOU THEOU – THE LAMB OF GOD VI

What is Sin?

¹⁰ *Who [is] among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh [in] darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God. ¹¹ Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass [yourselves] about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks [that] ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.*

Isaiah 50:10,11 KJV

⁷ *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.*

Psalms 20:7 NIV

I. The definition of sin

“Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature. We have a sinful nature because of Adam’s sin.” (Wayne Grudem)

⁵ *Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. (Psalm 51:5 NIV)*

II. The effects of sin on the image of God in humans

A. The image of God in humans is effaced, not erased. This means that the image of God is marred by sin, but not eliminated.

B. The image of God is damaged, but not totally destroyed, by sin.

C. Total depravity is extensive, but not intensive.

- * Sin does penetrate and permeate the whole being. No element of human nature is unaffected by inherited evil, even though no aspect is destroyed by it.

D. The Noetic effects of sin

- * When Adam chose evil, his mind was darkened by sin, as were the minds of his posterity.

²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. (Romans 1:28 NIV)

E. The volitional effects of human sin.

- * The human will cannot, unmoved by divine Grace, seek God.

¹¹ there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. (Romans 3:11 NIV)

- * Human will cannot initiate salvation.

¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. (John 1:13 NIV)

F. The effects of sin on human nature.

- * Having a fallen nature means that it is natural for us to sin. Sin is not merely an acquired habit. It is a basic inclination. Given the opportunity, sin will manifest itself.

III. Four concluding thoughts

- A. The effects of sin are extensive both on the human race overall and on individuals in particular.

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23 NIV)

- B. The entire human race is fallen and irredeemable, except by God's grace.

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV)

⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:5-7 NIV)

- C. Furthermore, each individual is totally depraved for sin has extended to every part of his being. He is a fallen person, including mind emotions will, and body.

- D. However, this does not mean that everyone is as evil as they're able to be. It does mean that they are not as good as they need to be. Hence God's grace is the only force in the universe that can overcome the natural irredeemability of human beings. (Norman Geisler)

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright

and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope--the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, (Titus 2:11-13 NIV)

IV. How on earth can God remedy such a condition?

⁴ It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll--I have come to do your will, my God.’ “ ⁸ First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”--though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹ Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ¹¹ Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. ¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: ¹⁶ “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” ¹⁷ Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” ¹⁸ And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer

necessary. ¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, (Hebrews 10:4-24 NIV)

¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. (1 Peter 1:18-20 NIV)