

A Display of Arminianism

John Owen

Chapter 7

The doctrine of _____ sin is taught in the Scriptures, has been defended by the saints throughout the ages, and is part of the confessional heritage of the church of England (article 9).

Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam, (as the Pelagians do vainly talk;) but it is the fault and corruption of the Nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam; whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and is of his own nature inclined to evil, so that the flesh lusteth always contrary to the Spirit; and therefore in every person born into this world, it deserveth God's wrath and damnation...the Apostle doth confess, that concupiscence and lust hath of itself the nature of sin.

Arminian error #1-Man is born _____

The classic Arminian position denied this truth. They write, “*Infants are simply in that state which Adam was before his fall...Neither is it at all considerable whether they be the children of believers or of heathens and infidels; for infants, as infants, have all the same innocency.*”

There is an inherent sin and _____ of nature that all men are born with.

In the Scriptures we find David saying that he was sinful even before his birth (Ps. 51:5). The Apostle Paul also teaches us that children without at least one believing parent are considered “unclean” (1 Cor. 7:14). Job asks, “Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?” (14:4).

“Something there is in them, as soon as they are born, excluding them from the kingdom of heaven; for except they also be born again of the Spirit, they shall not enter into it.”

The _____ between the righteousness of Christ and the sin of Adam (Romans 5).

“The sin of Adam holds such relation unto sinners, proceeding from him by natural propagation, as the righteousness of Christ doth unto them who are born again of Him by spiritual regeneration.”

Our nature is _____ to do that which is evil (Genesis 8:21, Romans 3:11-18, Titus 3:3).

The term “flesh” is often used in Scripture to refer to the _____ of our nature (John 3:6).

“The flesh, in the Scripture phrase, is a quality inherent in us; for that, with its concupiscence, is opposed to the Spirit and His holiness, which is certainly inherent in us...it is not bare imputation of another’s fault, but an intrinsical corruption of our nature itself, that we call by this name original sin.”

Arminian error #2-God would be _____ if He imputed Adam’s sin to infants

They write, “*Adam sinned in his own proper person, and there is no reason why God should impute that sin of his unto infants.*” They continue, “*For it is against equity that one should be accounted guilty for a sin that is not his own...It must be voluntary, or it is no sin.*”

Owen tears apart these above statements by showing: 1. The Scriptures never say that sin must be _____ to be sin (such as forgetting to do that which God requires or not even realizing you have done wrong-Levitus 5:2-5). 2. They fail to understand the covenant and Adam’s role as the head of humanity (“*Adam, being the root and head of all human kind, and we all branches from that root, all parts of that body whereof he as the head, his will may be said to be ours. We were then all that one man, we were all in him, and had no other will but his.*”)

Owen claims that their view makes God truly unjust by not imputing the sin of one to another but yet assigning the _____ of one to another. However, just as Abraham said we, too must say, “Far be it from God to put the righteous to death with the wicked!”

Arminian error #3-The “death” for Adam was not physical or spiritual

They write, “*That the death threatened unto him if he transgressed the covenant, and due unto him for it, was neither death temporal, for that before he was subject unto, by the primary constitution of his nature; nor yet such an eternal death as is accompanied with damnation or everlasting punishment.*”

For them, it couldn’t be physical death or else that would mean Adam’s guilt was _____ on to us all. It also couldn’t be spiritual death or that would eliminate their conception of free-will. They taught that the death threatened to Adam was “the utter dissolution of his soul and body, or a reduction to their primitive nothing.”

However, the Scriptures speak in terms of the death resulting from sin as being both _____ (Rom. 5:12) and _____ (Eph. 2:1).

Rebuttal focusing on the result of original sin according to Scripture

1. The Fall not only impacted Adam, Eve, and all his posterity but even _____ itself was cursed because of it. Adam stood as head for all the earth as one who had dominion over the created order (Gen. 3:17-18 & Rom. 8:20-22).

“There is no confusion, no disorder, no vanity in the whole world, in any of God’s creatures, that is not a punishment of our sin in Adam.”

2. Death of every kind and all that _____ death (misery, sickness, lusts that waste us away, etc) are all the result of our sin in Adam (1 Cor. 15:21-22, 11:30).
3. _____ is the final and great consequence of original sin (Rev. 21:27).