



Statement of Faith - Sin

Sin – Mankind forfeited his original state of righteousness by willfully sinning against God. Sin is either a transgression of God’s law or His character. Beginning with Adam and Eve, all have sinned, bringing death (physical and spiritual) on the human race. God holds mankind accountable to pay the debt of their sins, death. Since mankind’s nature is corrupt, he naturally desires to do what is contrary to God’s will. Mankind is completely incapable of delivering himself, in whole or in part, from either his guilt or corrupt nature. In this condition, mankind is under God’s wrath and is liable to all of the miseries of this life, to death itself and to the pains of hell forever. (Gen 3:6, 8:21, Eze 18:20, Ecc 12:13-14, Jer 17:9, Matt 25:46, Rom 3:9-12,19-23,5:12-21,6:23,7:7-13,8:6-8, Eph 2:1-3, 2 Thes 1:8-10)

Mankind forfeited his original state of righteousness by willfully sinning against

God. – It is clear from scripture that God had given a single commandment in the garden of Eden, not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. With this commandment came the threat of the consequence of death.

Genesis 2:15-17 - 15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 And **the LORD God commanded the man, saying,** "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but **from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.**" NASB

It is clear that Adam and Eve both willfully sinned against God by violating this commandment He had given, and that up to this time they had not sinned or violated any Word of God. They were therefore in rightstanding with God until such time that they disobeyed the Word of God.

Genesis 3:6-7 - 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, **she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.** 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings NASB

Sin is either a transgression of God’s law or His character. – It is clear from scripture that sin is a transgression or violation of God’s Law. This transgression can take place in *thought, word or deed*. Examples of this are clear even in the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:5-17). Whereas the sin of lying(#9) would be a *sin by word*, the sin of stealing(#8) would be a *sin of deed*, and a sin of coveting(#10) would be a *sin of thoughts* or attitudes.

1 John 3:4 - 4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and **sin is lawlessness.** In the sermon on the Mount(Matthew chapter’s 5-7), Jesus clearly lays down that form of thinking and acting which conforms to the character of God. We are told to not only conform outwardly in deed, but also inwardly, in the heart, and in our attitudes and character. Jesus continually points out here that having corrupt thoughts and motives are violations of the standards of the kingdom of God because they violate the character of God, and further threatens the penalty of hell for such violations.

Matthew 5:21-23 - 21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, **'You shall not commit murder'** and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' 22 "But I say to you that **everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty** before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' **shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.** NASB

Here He calls Christians to be perfect, conforming to the very character and nature of God.

Matthew 5:48 - 48 "Therefore **you are to be perfect,** as your heavenly Father is perfect. NASB
It should also be stated that one violation of the Law is as if one had violated the entire Law.

James 2:10 - 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and **yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.** NASB

It is the Law of God which makes us conscious of sin and actually defines what sin is. It is through the law that we "know what sin is!"

Romans 7:7-13 - What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, **I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "You shall not covet."** 8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead. 9 And I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died; 10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; 11 for sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me. 12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. 13 Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! **Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good,** that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful. NASB

Beginning with Adam and Eve, all have sinned, bringing death (physical and spiritual) on the human race. God holds mankind accountable to pay the debt of their sins, death. – It is clear from scripture that all mankind together are sinners, and that sin entered into the human experience through Adam and was passed to all mankind. It is through the agency of sin that all mankind is subject to death.

Romans 5:12 - 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** NASB

Because Adam is the physical father and representative of the whole human race, his sin affected all future generations. It is through his one act of sin that all mankind have become sinners now by nature.

1 Corinthians 15:22 - 2 For as **in Adam all die,** so also in Christ all shall be made alive. NASB

Romans 5:18-19 - 18 So then as **through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men,** even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For **as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners,** even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. NASB

Therefore since sin has become the practice of all mankind, all mankind are subject to God's wrath, even death. This is the just consequence of sin and the exact penalty which God promised would happen should man disobey Him, "in the day you eat of it you shall surely die" (Gen 2:17).

Romans 6:23 - 23 For **the wages of sin is death,** but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. NASB

James 1:15 - 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. NASB

Ephesians 2:3 - 3 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. NASB

Since mankind's nature is corrupt, he naturally desires to do what is contrary to God's will. – It is clear from scripture that the very nature of man has become corrupted through the sin of Adam.

Romans 5:18-19 - 18 So then as **through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men**, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For **as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners**, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. NASB

Therefore, being corrupted in his nature, he is unable to please God, being in the flesh and sets his mind on the things of the flesh. In Romans 8:5-8, it is clear that the natural “mind of the flesh” has several fatal flaws such as;

- Abiding in death - v-6
- Hostile toward God – v-7
- It does not subject itself to the law of God – v-7
- It is not able to subject itself to the law of God – v-7
- It cannot please God – v-7

Romans 8:5-9 - 5 For **those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh**, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For **the mind set on the flesh is death**, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 **because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.** NASB

It is also clear from the scripture that the “natural man” is corrupt in many other ways;

- Is not righteous, does not understand, does not seek God, does not fear God – Rom 3:9-12
- *DEAD* in trespasses and sins – Eph 2:1
- Blinded and *CANNOT* see the light of the Gospel in Christ – 2 Cor 4:4
- *CANNOT* see the kingdom of God – John 3:3
- *CANNOT* except the Holy Spirit – John 14:17
- *CANNOT* understand the things of God – 1 cor 2:14
- Is deceitful and desperately wicked – Jer 17:9
- *CANNOT* hear the Word of God – John 8:43

It is clear therefore from scripture that mankind naturally desires what is contrary to the will of God.

Mankind is completely incapable of delivering himself, in whole or in part, from either his guilt or corrupt nature. – It is clear from scripture that mankind is corrupted and incapable of even understanding the things of God, much less somehow reverse the penalties of sin which he has incurred against himself.

Ezekiel 18:4 - 4 "Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. **The soul who sins will die.** NASB

Because of man's great guilt before God, he cannot deliver himself without paying the wages of his sin, which is death.

Hebrews 9:22 - 22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and **without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.** NASB

In order for the justice of God to be met for the wages of sin, either man must die for his sin, or someone who is sinless must die in his place. Of course this is the good news of the Gospel held out in Jesus Christ!

1 Peter 3:18 -18 For **Christ also died for sins once for all**, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; NASB

A man or woman can no more change their nature than a leopard can change his spots! You must be born again of the Spirit to even see the kingdom of God!

Jeremiah 13:23 - 23 "Can **the Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his spots?** Then you also can do good Who are accustomed to doing evil. NASB

In this condition, mankind is under God's wrath and is liable to all of the miseries of this life, to death itself and to the pains of hell forever. – It is clear from scripture that it is because of sin that the wrath of God has come and is coming in a much more severe degree in the future.

Ephesians 5:5-6 - 5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for **because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.**NASB

Colossians 3:5-7 - 5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 **For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come,** NASB

All the miseries of this life are the indirect result of sin. In fact the entire creation is in “bondage to decay” because if sin and is eagerly awaiting its freedom at the proper time.

Romans 8:19-23 - 19 For the **anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility**, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that **the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.** NASB

As we have pointed out, the wages of sin is death, which is both physical and spiritual. For those who die apart from the saving grace of God, not only will the sinner die a physical death, but will also suffer the pains of hell forever. This is clear from scripture.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 - 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 **dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,** 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed. NASB

Revelation 21:8 - 8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." NASB

The reality of hell is God's clear indictment of the infiniteness of our guilt. If our corruption were not deserving of an eternal punishment God would be unjust to threaten us with a punishment so severe as eternal torment. But the Scriptures teach that God is just in condemning unbelievers to eternal hell (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; Matthew 5:29f; 10:28; 13:49f; 18:8f; 25:46; Revelation 14:9-11; 20:10).