

# **THE UNIVERSAL SINFULNESS**

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## **I. The fall of Man:**

### **a) Origin of Sin:**

Sin existed before the fall of the first couple – Adam and Eve.

As far as the human family is concerned the sin originated in the Garden of Eden.

### **b) Why did God permit Sin?**

1. It was neither a consent nor a license from God, but He did not intervene nor prevent it.
2. Man would have been under the necessity to make decisions (free will of man) even if there was no tree of knowledge.

### **c) Genesis 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter:**

1. The darkest chapter in the history of mankind
2. It is man's deliberate decision to violate God's commandment.

## **II. Consequences of fall of Man: Gen. 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter.**

1. Alienation from God (Gen. 3:9, 24)
2. Entry of death into human race (3:19)
3. Creation came under the curse of God (3:17b)
4. The consequence of Sin – death etc., were passed on to all men (Rom. 5:12, 1b)
5. Division in the family – (Abel + Cain Gen. 4:1)
6. Deterioration of morality in the Society

## **III. O.T. Teaching on sin:**

1. *Hata* (Hb) – literally means – missing the mark. Eg. Adam missing God's purpose for his life. Generally used for personal sin against God.
2. *Pasa* – Used for rebellion against God and offences of man to man.
3. *a won* – mostly used for sin against God.

**Summary:** O.T sees sin as primarily directed against God, and hence man comes under the judgment of God.

## **IV. N.T. Teaching on Sin:**

Various words are used for 'Sin' in the New Testament. They show the different aspects of sin.

1. *Hamartia*: – missing the mark – God's will for man – it is a general word used for sin both in the gospels and in Paul's letters. (Mt. 3:6, Mk. 3:29, Lk. 7:47, John 1:29, Acts 2:38, Rom 4:7).
2. *Asebeia*: – Rom. 1:1b. Theological word for sin – Ungodliness – Refusing to Worship God the creator.

3. **Paraptoma**:- (Tresspass) – Deviating from the standards of God. (Mt. 6:14, Mk. 11:25)

4. **Parabasis**:- Deviation from the true path transgression (Rom 2:23; Gal. 3:19)

5. **Anomia**:- Rejection and disobedience to law (Mt. 24:12; 2 Cor. 6:14, 2 Thes. 2:3)

Nomos = Law (Gk) – a + nomos – Lawlessness.

6. **Opheilema** (debt) Mt. 6:12, Rom. 4:4

7. **Skandala** ( a trap which causes sin) Mt. 13:41

8. **Agnoemate** (Errors / ignorance): The sins of ignorance – Heb. 9:7

9. **Kakos** (bad; the opposite of good) – Heb 5:14; James 1:13; 3:8; 4:11

10. **Ponevos** (evil)

Eg: Evil heart (Heb 3:12)

Evil conscience (Heb 10:22)

Evil in thought realm (James 2:4; 4:16)

#### **V. Summary teaching of N.T. on ‘Sin’:**

a. Universality of Sin – Rom. 1-3

b. Inward character of sin – The root cause of sin is ‘internal’ (Mt. 5:21-30)

c. Slavery to sin (Mt. 10:45; Jn. 8:34, Rom. 6:16; 17:7, 2:25)

d. Guilt – (Jn. 9:41)

e. Rebellion – (Lk. 15:18, 21; Rom. 1:18b)

f. Alienation from God – (Jn. 5:24; Eph. 2:14)

g. Unbelief (Jn. 3:18)

h. Ignorance – Jn. 5:16-17 – The opposite of eternal life (Jn. 3:16b)

i. Debt (Col. 1:14, Eph. 1:7)

j. Lawlessness (1 Jn. 3:4, 8:10; Rom. 6:19, 2 Thes. 2:3, 2 Cor. 6:14)

k. Falsehood – (Rom. 1:18, Eph. 4:25)

#### **VI. Paul Personifies Sin:**

Sin seeking an opportunity – Rom 7:8 - Sting of death (I Cor. 15:56)

#### **VII. Conclusion:**

Sin has caused man to come under the holy wrath of God (Rom. 1:18) which results in both physical death and spiritual death (Eph. 2:1). Man has no hope of eternal life without being reconciled to God through Jesus Christ (2 Cor 5:19–21).