

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Sunday Morning Bible Class

Formula of Concord Series

Original Sin

The Question at Issue:

- A) Original sin is the essential part of man's corrupted nature, or at least the principal part of his being.
- B) Original sin adheres in man's substance or essence, and corrupts it utterly, but is separate and distinct from it.

Why It Matters

- 1) God still today creates the body and soul of every human being.
Job 10:8 'Your hands have made me and fashioned me, an intricate unity.'

"Is God then the Creator of that which is evil?"

- 2) Christ assumed human nature into his divine nature
Luke 2:11 "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
Hebrews 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same,

"Could Jesus be sinless, and offer a sinless sacrifice, if human nature is essentially corrupt?"

What the Bible Teaches

- 1) There is a distinction between man's nature and original sin – both before and after the fall. The distinction between our nature and original sin is as great as the difference between God's work and the devil's work.
- 2) Any view that admits no distinction conflicts with the Biblical doctrines of creation, redemption, sanctification, and the resurrection of the bodies of all believers.
- 3) The corruption original sin worked in the human nature is so thorough and complete that nothing sound or uncorrupted remains in man's body or soul. This damage is so unspeakable that it may not be recognized by a rational process, but only from God's Word.
- 4) The separation of all corruption from our human nature can be accomplished only by God, who will do so by death and the resurrection.
- 5) Satan cannot create a substance; he can only, with God's permission, corrupt accidentally the substance which God has created.

What the Bible Rejects

- 1) That original sin is some sort of a debt that can and must be repaid.
- 2) The idea that evil desires are not sinful, but are essential properties of our human nature.
- 3) The teaching that part or all of man's human nature remains uncorrupted after the fall (especially the natural spiritual powers).
- 4) Any notion that the corruption of original sin in the human nature is partial or slight.
- 5) The idea that the corruption can be cleared from the human nature like the removal of a stain.
- 6) The error that original sin is an essential, self-existing something which Satan infused into or mingled with man's human nature, like poison mixed into wine.
- 7) The false teaching that man is not responsible for original sin, but something alien that lives within him.