

Chapter 8

The Dark Mirror of Sin



NOW THE FIRST IMPORTANT TRUTH WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND IS SIMPLY THIS: All the generations of human offspring stemming from Adam's and Eve's lives, down to you and I today, are not held responsible for Adam's and Eve's original sin - the sin they committed when they ate the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In other words we are not born with Adam's and Eve's guilt hanging over our lives nor do we inherit their guilt in our lives. They alone bear the guilt of their original sin against God.

"The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself." Ezekiel 18:20

But like radiation fallout from a nuclear explosion, the fallout from Adam's and Eve's sin has contaminated the entire world. Into this contamination all generations of human life have been born. Yes, even you and I.

Looking back to the beginning of human sin we see that *...through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. Romans 5:12.*

Did you notice those last three words *...because all sinned...* This includes every human being ever born into our world called Planet Earth. Yes, every single person.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8

Please, do not be fooled, for sin has a dark bewitching nature, which distorts the human mind."

From our group sitting at the intersection of life, a gentle voice asks, "How can this be?" In an equally gentle tone, This Man answers.

"When the two earthlings sinned, their pure, perfect natures were twisted and warped by the power of evil. The power of evil printed imperfection upon their minds and we call this a "fallen nature."

...you have fallen from grace... Galations 5:4

Although Adam and Eve returned to live a holy life before God, their minds remained morally weak. More than ever, Adam and Eve had to guard their thoughts and desires against evil temptations. Of course their minds were less affected by evil than the human mind of today. Over the millenniums, sin has mutated and the human mind degenerated. Sadly this chain reaction began with Adam and Eve when they sinned against God.

For you see, through the natural process of hereditary, from Adam and Eve, down through the generations of human life, every human has received a fallen imperfect nature with tendencies and desires to enjoy not only good but also evil. Think about it.

Do you see how the traits of good and evil have formed a genetic imprint upon the human race?

By one man's disobedience many were made sinners. Romans 5:19

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal (have a sinful nature), sold under sin."
Romans 7:14

*And you He made alive, who were dead in **trespasses and sins**, in which **you once walked according to the course of this world**, according to the prince of the power of the air, **the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience**, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath**, just as the others. Ephesians 2:1-3*

Yes, the genes of good and evil have filtered through the generations of human life because the fallout of good and evil is imprinted at conception.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Psalm 51:5

The writer is saying that his mother, like all humans, had a fallen nature with desires for good and evil. Thus when she conceived in her womb she naturally passed on the fallen nature to her offspring.

And of course the writer could have added that he received his fallen nature through his father's chromosomes also. Yes, all humans encounter the sin problem and this begins at conception and comes to full fruition after birth.

*The wicked are estranged from the womb;
They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.
Their poison is like the poison of a serpent;
They are like the deaf cobra that stops its ear,
Which will not heed the voice of charmers,
Charming ever so skillfully. Psalm 58:3-5*

Of course, babies and very young children do not know if their actions are right or wrong. The little ones are not held accountable before God.

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked... Acts 17:30

However, as a child grows, his or her mind and conscience begin to develop. Young children soon learn the difference between right and wrong. And the choices children make become the essence of their characters, the essence of who they are. Thus we can clearly see the importance of responsible parents who guide their children lovingly, teaching the difference between right and wrong and the consequences of choices in life.

As a young person matures, when ignorance is replaced with knowing right from wrong,

then the person becomes accountable to God for his or her choices and actions in life.

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. James 4:17

And so, all humans born into our world are in the same condition as Adam and Eve at the time of their fall from perfection - overcome by Satan's supernatural spirit of evil.

According to the prince of the power of the air (Satan), the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience. Ephesians 2:2

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil sinned from the beginning. 1 John 3:8

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 1 John 1:10

For there is not a just man on earth

who does good

And does not sin. Ecclesiastes 7:20

Simply put, there is not one good person on this planet who has not sinned at some point in their lives.

Yet, being caught in the snare of personal sin can be difficult to accept and admit. Indeed, some adamantly declare: 'I am a good person. I live a good life and keep the laws of the land, doing no harm to others.'

This may be very true and most admirable. But this self appraisal is looking into the distorted mirror of human values and standards for life.

When we look into the mirror of God's law - His values and standards for holy living - we clearly see the stain of sin upon our lives.

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

We are all like an unclean thing,

And all our righteousnesses

are like filthy rags;

We all fade like a leaf,

And our iniquities, like the wind,

Have taken us away. Isaiah 64:6

With all good intentions, everyone of us may be honest some of the time - even most of the time - but never have we been honest all of the time. It may not be the darkest lie that a person is guilty of but rather a small white lie, told to hide the truth.

A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who speaks lies shall perish. Proverbs 19:9

A person may think wholesome thoughts some of the time - maybe most of the time - but never all of the time during their life. *For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. Proverbs 23:7*

Most people do many good deeds, but a multitude of good deeds can never gloss over one wrong act.

But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.
Colossians 3:25

A person may turn their inquisitive eyes away from evil some of the time - perhaps most of the time - but never all of the time during his or her life.

Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the hearts of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Ecclesiastes 8:11

Need we dig any deeper into the pit of human sin to expose the obvious truth?

For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law... Romans 2:12-13

With all sincerity, humans may voice their good intentions before God. Yet in themselves they have no merit or power to right their wrongs, and rise to His Holy standard to make a new start. Compared to God's righteousness, their meager goodness is putrefied with sin.

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal (sinful), sold under sin. Romans 7:14

Now sin comes in varying degrees. But all sin has one common denominator whatever its weight, size or strength; every sin will invariably work death.

*But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, **brings forth death.***
James 1:14-15

The soul who sins shall die. Ezekiel 18:4

What man can live and not see death?

Can he deliver his life from the power of the grave? Selah Psalm 89:48

For a few moments, This Man pauses as if expecting an answer. But the answer he seeks is written across our faces as we realize we can never deliver ourselves from sin - let alone the process of death. And so This Man probes a little further.

"Now you may remember in the Bible, the meaning of sin is breaking God's law.

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.
1 John 3:4 KJV

But what is the evidence or appearance of sin in a human life, that we might identify sin in all its awful reality?"

Like a general rallying his soldiers for battle, This Man rallies our thoughts to face our own worst enemy:

THE DARK MIRROR OF PERSONAL SIN

This Man warns us: "As you peer into the mirror of sin it may reflect a stressful experience, so grasp on to the uplift of God's pure mercy and lay hold upon His saving grace.

Without any apologies, if a person is to choose between everlasting life and everlasting death then a concise understanding of sin is vitally important.

*Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, **that those who practise such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.** Galatians 5:19-21*

We are all familiar with these sins. For like poisonous streams they course their way through human life.

'What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornication, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.' Mark 7:20-23

Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the Kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Quite clearly the sins of Biblical times are identical to the sins of today!

...there is nothing new under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:9

Professing to be wise, they became fools...For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness;

full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

who, knowing the righteous judgement of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. Romans 1:22, 26-32

IF YOU WONDER HOW POWER CAN CORRUPT THE SOUL, spend some time browsing in the Bible. There you will read true life stories of those who lusted after power, and the dreadful price each one eventually paid.

Lust for power and control began with Lucifer, the majestic leading angel created by our heavenly Father and His only begotten Son. Yet with all his advantages, Lucifer wanted what was not his - to be equal with the Son. Dreadful violence occurred in heaven with one third of angels joining Lucifer. Then after refusing all offers of forgiveness, Lucifer was cast out of heaven, and became *"...that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world..."* Revelation 13:9

As our planet's history unfolded, Eve and then Adam gave into the desire to *"...be like God..."* Genesis 3:5. Again and again we see the lust for power: Nimrod the mighty hunter and protector of the people after the Great Flood - behaving like a god; King Saul - became paranoid about holding onto his power; the prophet Baal - thrilled to the worship of those who hung on his every word, the traitor Judas - lusted after power and money, then sold our beloved Lord Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

Lusting for power didn't end with the last book of the Bible. You can probably think of a handful of names right now, perhaps even someone at your workplace or down your street! Perhaps you think of those people as strong characters, destined to lead people? Not according to Erich Fromm, a behavioural scientist from the 20th century who devoted his adult life to studying human behaviour. Fromm's assessment: "The lust for power is not rooted in strength but in weakness."

Discussing the future of the human race, author Andrew Marshall notes: "Power alters the psychology of the individual that holds it. It is an extremely lonely condition, in which, once power is achieved, and with no more power to gain, the obsession turns to the preservation of power, and with that, paranoia of losing it.

And: "Power is a cancer; it eats away at its host. The greater the power held, the more cancerous it is, the more malignant it becomes."

How fortunate are those of us who recognise that God is the one true power in all the universe, He who has the power to save all who *"...keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."* Revelation 14:12

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." Ephesians 6:10

References:

1.. Marshall, Andrew Gavin. "Global War and Dying Democracy: The Revolution of the Elites." Global Research, Global Power and Global Government, August 19, 2009. <http://www.globalresearch.ca/global-war-and-dying-democracy-the-revolution-of-the-elites/14839>. Accessed July 18, 2015