

THE DOWNFALL OF MAN

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The Origin of Sin

Part 1

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

God Gave Man a Law

Today there are many stories about how sin got into the world. Some writers feel that fallen angels caused man to commit sin. They say that these angels became tempted, got away from God and rose up in power against Him, and fell out of God's Heaven; so they came to the earth in a fallen state and caused man to commit sin. Let us look at the Bible to see what it has, to say about this subject. The Word of God is very plain concerning this. To get the right answer, we need to look into the right source.

How did sin get into the paradise where man once enjoyed great fellowship with God? The Bible is not silent concerning this. Romans 5:12 states, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Romans 5:19, "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." The devil did not bring sin into the world, and God is not the author of it; but man himself was the one who introduced it into the world.

Genesis 2:15-17 reads: "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man,

saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

In Genesis 1:27 God gives us an account of His creation: "SO, God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." God created man in His own image, and we know that God is a Spirit. Not only did the Lord form the outer man, the temple of clay, from the dust of the ground, but He also made a spiritual man.

Our earthly tabernacle that we spend so much time fixing up and making sure every hair is in place is made from the dust of the earth, and it is going to go back to the earth one of these days. That is the best there is for this outside tabernacle. The spirit, or the soul, dwells in this earthly tabernacle. When death comes upon you or me, our soul will yet live on, but the body is mortal. From the cradle to the grave, you are a dying creature.

God made man and put him in an earthly paradise called the Garden of Eden. While man was in the Garden of Eden, that land of paradise, he was given a helpmeet, or a wife.

Next, God gave man a law. There must be a law in order for man to have a choice. God made Adam and Eve different than any other part of His creation. He placed within man the power to choose the right. That is not so with any of God's other creative forces. The sun has no choice but to shine, the moon and the stars have no choice but to come out at night, and the animals have no choice but to be as they are; but man is the apex of God's creation. God has given you the power of choice, the right to make certain decisions. Why was man given a choice? That is the only way possible for you and me to show our love to God.

John 14:15 says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Keeping God's commandments is the only way you can show your love to Him. This gets down closer than mouth worship. Why is there so much hypocrisy? It is easier to say you love God than to obey His law.

The truth is, you are today what you have chosen to be. I you want to be spiritual and on fire for God, you must choose to be. If you are lukewarm, you had to choose to be lukewarm. If you are wrapped up in the things of the world, you had to choose to be. You are a creature of choice. Oh, I realize that you can be influenced by others, and I know there is a tempter; but you are what you choose to be.

You do not have to serve God; many do not. God puts before you life and death, but He always lets you choose. In order to do this, there had to be another force, or another power, something to tempt man, to try to draw him away from the right. So the serpent emerged as a murderer of souls. The force or principal power of sin entered into the world through disobedience. Paul said that by one man, sin entered into the world.

The Tempter

We find that not only was God's new creation, man, put in the garden and given a law, but there also needed to be a tempter, the devil. In the fall, however, we find that man's helpmeet became an instrument of the devil. The devil did not use a serpent to tempt Adam. He had a better source to use: Adam's wife. As soon as the serpent tempted Eve and she fell, the devil did not use the serpent again; he used Eve.

The devil is not using serpents today. Satan will use the wife, the husband, the children, a close friend, or someone in whom you have confidence. May God help you to be wise. The devil will try to get right in the home to try to separate the husband and the wife. How does he work? He will get one to say some little thing which does not amount to anything, and the companion may take it the wrong way and build a case out of it. The next thing you know, there is ought between the husband and the wife.

The devil works to use someone who is close to you. He wants to get to you, and he wants to wreck and destroy your home. Satan will try to cause strife. He

wants to hinder your prayer life and hinder that close relationship which the husband and wife have with God. Remember, the devil has been in this business for quite a while; he knows how to work.

The children can become rebellious in the home, and the next thing you know, the parents become upset and out of sorts because of the way the children 'are acting. In too many cases, when this occurs, the parents begin to neglect taking these things to God. You need to keep in mind that the devil is out to destroy the home, and he is trying to work as never before. Let us be wise.

We find that the woman first partook of the forbidden fruit and she gave unto her husband, and he ate of it. There is a reason why the tempter came to Eve first. Eve gave the tempter the upper hand. When the devil said, "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Genesis 3:1) the woman told the serpent the command, but she overstated it. God did not say all that Eve said. God's commandment in Genes 2:17 was, "But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

In Genesis 3:3 we read that Eve added, "Neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." God did not say that. How were they to dress it and keep it without touching it? Eve overstated the command. Why? She felt deprived. No doubt, the commandment was so grievous to her that she was ripe for temptation. God did not say they could not touch it; He said not to eat it. I canny find in any translation where God said not to touch it.

God knows when you do not do something just because other do not; He knows when His commandments are not truly in your heart. Like Eve, many people feel deprived, and so all the devil has to do is come around and tempt them along that very avenue.

The tempter knew that Eve's heart was not in God's law. She, no doubt, had looked upon that tree and thought over God's command many, many times. That thing so worked on her that she probably had the thought, "Isn't that something. We can't even touch it!"

Genesis 3:7 reads, "And the eyes of them both were opened. . . ."

Disobeying a Known Command

We read in Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin. . . ." Sin became present as a power, as a possibility, as a principle, as a force in the world by disobedience. To disobey the commandments of God is sin. Not walking in the light which God has shown you is disobedience, and disobedience is sin.

Adam and Eve were created in an innocent state before God. They knew no sin. They were in the same category as a little child, in the sense that they were innocent. When Adam and Eve were created in the Garden of Eden, they knew no evil; they were created holy. They were naked before God with no shame. They did not know any wrong until they disobeyed a known command.

Adam went into a state of spiritual death, separated from the fellowship of God. Man was driven from the garden to till the ground from which he had been taken. Sin entered the world through disobedience. According to the Word of God, sin entered into the world by one man's disobedience. Sin became a principle; it became a power in the world through disobedience to God's command.

You might ask, "Why did God allow Eve to be tempted?" To be a creature of choice, there has to be another force, a force of evil, besides the goodness of God. Satan is an instrument, or a force, not a fallen angel. The devil never made his abode in Heaven. He was created by God so that we could either choose to do good or be drawn away and make the wrong choice. When the tempter comes and you say no to the devil and yes to God, you are showing your love to God. This evil force does not work on the animal life, but only on man. Man is the only creature of choice that God made.

The devil is a created spirit that will use men and women, the things of this world, or the pleasures of this

world to draw you away from the simplicity that is in Christ Jesus. In Isaiah 45:7 God is speaking, "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things."

I cannot take the time to digress here because this subject is a message in itself; however, every Scripture which is used to propagate the theory that the devil was once an angel of light, when used in its proper context, does not teach such a doctrine. The devil never abode in the truth, and he never will. In John 8:44 Jesus, speaking to the Jews, said, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth [Satan was never an angel of light, nor was he an angel that once had the truth and became swelled up with pride. No, he was a tempter, a devil, from the beginning.], because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

Church of God, remember that the devil will never tell you the truth. He was a liar from the beginning, and you cannot go back any further than the beginning. How did sin enter into the world? The devil did not bring it in. Man brought sin into the world when he transgressed the commandment of God. Sin was not in the world until man committed sin. By one man, sin entered into the world. When Adam transgressed the law of God he loosed sin into the world. It became a force, a power, a principle.

Blaming Others for One's Sin

Genesis 3:9-14 says: "And the Lord God called unto Adam and said unto him, Where art thou? [Certainly, God knew where he was; he just wanted Adam to answer Him.] And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself [he was naked before but was not afraid]. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And

the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life."

When God appeared to Adam and said, "Adam, where art thou?" and questioned him further, Adam did not acknowledge his transgression or say, "Lord, I have sinned. Have mercy"; but he said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." Next, the Lord questioned the woman, and the woman blamed the serpent, and the serpent had no one to blame. Nowhere in the Scriptures do we find that Adam or Eve admitted to their sin. It has been characteristic of man ever since the Garden of Eden to put the blame somewhere else for his sin. Man has always been an expert at evading the truth. Oh, how this spirit still strives in our world today. It seems that the vast majority of people will not admit to their sin.

Some husbands blame their wives because they do not live right. Some wives say they could do all right if it were not for their husbands. Teenagers blame their friends. Some teenagers use the excuse, "I cannot live for God because the young people would not want anything to do with me." Have you ever thought of truly becoming spiritual and getting on fire for God? Then you would be able to forget about popularity and live for God.

Some people contend that they do not live for God because of hypocrites. The fact that some people may be hypocrites is no excuse for anyone not to live for God. You need to forget what other people are doing and live for God yourself.

The enemy will always show you somebody who is not living right, such as someone who is not paying his bills, or ones who profess one thing but live differently when they are out away from the congregation. Such people are always going to be around. You need to get your eyes on Christ, and keep your eyes on Him. Let Christ be

your example. Many people do not do this. Then when another individual goes down, they go right down with them. The blame for sin has been laid on God, circumstances, fellowman, and the way one has been made, instead of where the true problem really lies. God is doing His very best, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to get people to own their condition.

Acknowledging Your Transgression

Psalms 51 was written after David had committed adultery and had Uriah killed. Verses 1-18 read: "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

"Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast not me away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee."

David had divorced himself from God's covenant, believing he could run his own life better than God. You can read that when this sin was committed, it was a time when kings go to battle, but David did not go to battle. He sent Joab instead, and he tarried at Jerusalem. David was at the height of his reign. He thought he could control his own life.

We need to take heed to this today. Right at a time when you think you are the greatest and when you think that you can control yourself and direct your own steps, watch out!

Proverbs 3:6 says, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Jeremiah 10:23 reads, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." David said in Psalm 32:5a, "I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid." Although Bathsheba was involved, nowhere in this Psalm do we find that David mentioned Bathsheba in his confession. He said, "I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me." When you commit sin, it is your sin, and if you come back to God, you will have to acknowledge your transgression. When you come to God, you need to quit blaming your sin on everybody else, even though someone else may be involved. If you have sinned, it is your sin, your, transgression.

Notice how many times David said "my transgression, my iniquity, my sin." David cast his soul completely upon the mercy of God and pleaded for God's forgiveness of his transgression. An important element in that Psalm is the fact that David acknowledged his sin. He also confessed and forsook his sin. That was a different type of acknowledgment than that of Adam or Eve.

Who is to blame for sin? The one who commits it. When Adam and Eve sinned, Adam was guilty of his own sin, and Eve was guilty of her own sin. David was guilty of his own sin. Likewise, if you sin, you are the one to blame. You cannot blame it on the devil. Some people say, "The devil made me do it." No, the devil tempted you, but you did it.

David was drawn away of his own desire. Then when lust had conceived, it brought forth sin, and sin brought forth death. When David wrote the Fifty-first Psalm, he was coming back to God. He realized that the only way back to God was to acknowledge his transgression.

A Fountain Opened

If you are away from God, there is only one way you are going to get back to Him, and that is to acknowledge your transgression. You will never receive help from God until you are honest enough to own your transgression. David knew that the only way he could get back into a right relationship with God was to be cleansed by the Almighty God. Later in life, David reaped what he sowed. Oh, what a bitter pill to swallow! There is seasonal pleasure at the time you are sowing; but there is another season right out ahead, the season of reaping. When David got involved in this sin, he was not thinking about what the outcome would be years down the road. He had one of the worst reapings a king has ever had to endure.

His sin followed him and infected his children. His children were involved with lust and violence, and the effect was felt throughout his kingdom. One of his sons tried to take the kingdom from him. One son laid with his concubines right out in the open before all Israel. Oh, what a reaping!

Parents, if you are playing around and living loose, it will effect your children. Your children know whether or not you are really serving God. You may fool a lot of people, but you are not fooling your children.

Who is to blame for sin? Those who commit it. You do not have to live any longer in sin. Thank God, there has been a fountain opened, a way where you and I can live in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives. How can you get free from sin? You must, like David, acknowledge your transgression. You have to be sick enough of sin that you are willing to suffer rather than yield to sin. When you stand like that, the temptation dwindles away and leaves you.

Bring your sins before God. He is a God of mercy and longsuffering. He cares about you more than your own family. Jesus died for you. He loves you so much that He would have died for you if you had been the only one in existence. After you acknowledge your sins, you must forsake and turn your back on sin completely, and the

Lard will have mercy on you. Are you willing to acknowledge and forsake your sins? That is the only way you will find deliverance. That is exactly what it is going to take for you to ever enter into the gates of Heaven.

You will answer for your own sin. You are duty-bound before God to walk in what light and understanding you have. If you get out of line, if you fall, there is only one way back to God, and it is the same way the prodigal son returned to his father's house: you need to acknowledge your transgression.

Can sin, or a corrupt nature, be inherited or passed along? Adam was given a law; regardless of how base or how simple that law was, it was a commandment from God.

Let us read Genesis 2:16-17: "And the Lord God commanded the man [it was a commandment], saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat [when you obey God, you can do just that--freely eat; but when you disobey God, there is a bondage that comes with disobedience]: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." The commandment was, "Thou shalt not eat of it." The penalty for disobeying the command was, "Thou shalt surely die."

As I mentioned before, the part of man that is made in the image of God is the spiritual man. We read in John 4:24, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Hebrews 12:9 says, "Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?" James 3:9 says, "Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God." Again, this is speaking of the spiritual man, which is made in the image of God.

I want to emphasize that God is a Spirit, and man (speaking of the inner man) was made in the image of God. It is necessary that you keep this in your mind. Man is not like the animal, except in the sense that he has a body, an outward shell, which, when he dies, will go back to the dust of the ground. There something different in man than the animal. When man dies, he goes right on living in eternity. When man leaves his tabernacle of clay, he is still just as much alive the moment after he dies the moment before he dies.

Man, in his original state, was a perfect picture of God's creative power. All of God's work is perfect; all of God's work is good. Deuteronomy 32:4 says, "He is the

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Part 2

Rock, his work is perfect. . . ." Ecclesiastes 7:29 reads, "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions."

Think on this a little while. Adam in his original state was created and formed holy before God. He was perfect before Him. He did not know anything about sin, and he had no guilty feeling. He could meet God in the cool of the evening and have fellowship with Him. He had no condemnation whatsoever, and he felt free. Also, he could freely eat of every tree of the garden, except one.

A Creature of Choice

As I mentioned earlier, there is no other way for you to show your love to God except through the power of choice; therefore, you are what you choose to be. The devil was created by God. He is the one that tries to draw you away, but you become an overcomer when you say no to the devil and yes to God.

The devil is necessary. You may say, "I would like to take that devil and . . ." Well, you might feel like that sometimes, but he is going to be around anyway. God uses him to strengthen you. Oh, I know the devil is an accuser, but when you submit yourself to God and rebuke the enemy of your soul, God will give you strength and you will have victory.

There are two other things that cause man to be different from the rest of God's creation. There cannot be sin without these two things: one is intellect, and the second is man's will. Every man in God's creation has an intellect and a will. These two characteristics set man apart from all the other creative works of God. God gave man great intellect: He gave him a mind so he could think. Also, He gave him a will, the ability to decide or choose his own way.

This is the setting in the garden: Man was created in the image of God, with holy characteristics and the ability to commune with God. He lived in a paradise. A law was set forth to govern man, and a force of evil was put in place to provide him with a choice.

What is sin? Sin is the complete opposite of holiness. Let us look at some Bible definitions of what sin is. First John 3:4 reads, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." First John 5:17, "All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death."

There are two ways that sin can be charged to man. James 4:17 says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." John 8:34 reads, "Jesus answered then Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin."

In order for one to sin, he has to know what the commandment is. In these two Scriptures alone, we can see the two ways in which one can commit sin: One is the sin of commission whereby you actually commit sin, a transgression. You know that something is wrong to do, but you overstep and do it anyway. The second one is the sin of omission, which means that you do not do what you know God wants you to do. You know God's will, but you fail to do it.

Man has an intellect. Those who commit sin know what the commandment is, but their will is to overstep it. Those who sin by omission know what God wants them to do, but their will is to back off and not do it. Both the intellect and will are present whenever there is sin in anyone's life.

Transgressing God's Law

In the garden, it was God's will that Adam not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam knew the commandment. He had intellect, and he could understand what God's commandment was. The only knowledge Adam and Eve had was of good. They only partook of evil when they disobeyed; before that, they had no knowledge of sin.

Sin entered into the world by one man's disobedience. Man's will had to be exercised. As individuals, we have the ability to decide our own future by the kind of attitude we take toward God. Adam's will rose up against the will

of God. To sin, you must override the knowledge you have of God's will, and you must choose to disobey it before sin will be charged to your account.

You cannot sin or be charged with sin unless you have two characteristics (intellect and will), present and working. Those two things must be active in one's life. We cannot preach or teach or even talk about sin that has never been committed. There is no such thing. Sin was not charged to Adam and Eve until they actually disobeyed God. Sin is not charged to you until you actually disobey the will of God for your life.

The Bible does not tell you that Adam is responsible for anyone else's sin. Contrariwise, each one of us is responsible for our own sin. In Psalm 51, nowhere did David mention Adam, and nowhere did he even mention Bathsheba. He said, "I acknowledge my transgression." That is where the responsibility lies. If you falter and commit sin, you have no one to blame but yourself.

Adam was the first to introduce sin into the world. Sin is always a transgression of God's law. To have sin in your life, there has to be a knowledge of God's law, and there has to be an exercise of your will. When those two things are present (intellect and will), and you override God's will for your life, you commit sin. There is only one way you are going to be free from sin: put the blame where it truly is and acknowledge your transgression. Do not blame somebody else. Look in the mirror and say, "I am the man."

What caused Adam to sin? He could not have had an evil nature. He was made in the image of God. He had not partaken of evil. He did not have a sinful nature. Adam could not have had any inherited sin. He did not get any inherited sin or corrupt nature from God. He did not know that his eyes were going to be opened or that as soon as he disobeyed God, sin was going to enter into the world. Adam could not have had an evil nature and yet be created in the image of God.

The same thing that caused Adam to sin also caused you and me to sin: making the wrong choice. He chose to commit sin. How do you commit sin? How do you get into

trouble with God? You might say, "The devil made me do it," but you are the one who sinned. You cannot blame others; that excuse will not stand at the Judgment. God is not going to listen to excuses. If you are living in sin, you chose to be there. Do not blame it on anyone but yourself. If you keep blaming it on somebody else, you will never get anywhere with God.

Sinning Is by Choice

Joshua 24:15 says, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve. . . ." You will serve, and you are serving, exactly whom you choose. Romans 6:16 reads, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Since Adam did not have an evil nature, he had to sin by choice, by yielding to desires and fleshly weaknesses. He was following the desires of the flesh and trying to direct his own steps. When you refuse to yield your will to God, this causes you to overstep that which you know is right.

Temptation is not sin and desire is not sin, until you are drawn away by it. There is no sin until there is a birth, or a conception, in the heart of man. "Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust [or desire] and enticed [meaning persuaded or baited]. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death [not physical death, but spiritual death, or separation from God]" (James 1:14-15).

The word lust simply means "strong desire." Strong desires are present in every man and woman's life; the enemy uses your desires, your passions. Satan will use any means to excite these passions and draw the Christian away. He will use anything to excite your passions of sex. That is why the devil use pornography. He wants to excite your passions to draw you away and get you enticed to the place where you will finally yield and overstep the commandment of God. And what happens? Lust conceived in the heart and it brings forth sin, and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.

Satan will use billboards to excite you. Oftentimes, you can see billboards along the highway advertising cigarettes, making them look really inviting--until you go to the hospital and visit ones who have been smoking. The billboards also picture a woman sitting in a satin gown drinking liquor. How refreshing that looks--until you go to where people have to go to be dried out, and then you see the real results. Satan uses these things to excite your passions and desires, to draw you away. This is where the choice comes in: choosing the wrong way or the right way.

There was a time when I was traveling the wrong way. I was excited by those pleasures and followed after them; but when I came to Christ, before me came another way, and it is the right way, called the way of holiness. "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it . . ." (Isaiah 35:8).

Desires and Passions Within

The word lust comes from the same Greek word which is translated desire. We find in Luke 22:15 the same word when Jesus said, "With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer." That same word "desire" means strong desire, and it comes from the same Greek word as the word lust. First Timothy 3:1 says, "This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work." Again, this is the same Greek word.

Every time people see the word lust, right away their minds go to something perverted or degrading. However, it actually means "strong desire." You have passions and desires within you; you have knowledge, intellect, and a will that God has also placed within you. The devil will excite those desires and passions to try to draw you away. If you do not submit them to God, you not only will become enticed and persuaded, but also, when that desire conceives down in your heart, it is going to bring forth sin; and when sin, when it is finished, brings forth

death, or separation from God.

All of us have strong desires, and when those desires are excited, unless we call on the Lord, we can be drawn away. Man has within himself a strong desire to protect his home. He also has some anger in him, but watch out that the devil does not use it. It can be wrongful anger: it can get out of hand, and you can overstep the will of God. A man is not much of a man unless he has some anger about him. What does a godly man get angry about? Sin, the devil, and wrongful acts. I hate sin with a passion! It led me astray and took me down the wrong road. There are people who hate the consequences of evil, but you need to hate the evil.

Church of God, we each have a body to keep under. When you are saved, you still have desires and passions. God still leaves you in your fleshly body, unless He takes you on to Glory. You still have a flesh with which you must contend. That is why we need the Spirit of God present in our lives daily. In order to stand against the temptations or the wiles of the devil, we need the Holy Spirit.

Oh, church, I hope you can see that we need the Spirit of God in a greater way in this day and age. There are so many things which look good, things that you may not see any wrong in, until you go to God and the Spirit of God reveals the outcome of following after such things.

What About Adamic or Inherited Sin?

There are no such terms in the Bible as "Adamic sin" or "original sin" or "inherited sin." Where did those terms come from? Catholicism and her harlot daughters. There is no inherited sin or Adamic sin. If there is sin in your life, you are the one who committed it. It is not Adam's sin. Again, how did Adam sin? By disobedience, when he overstepped the commandment of God. Remember, there was no sin in Adam's life until he disobeyed God. When he disobeyed, his eyes were opened and he then knew evil.

Some may question, "What about little children? They

Who Is to Blame for Sin?

have inherited sin." No, they do not. A little child is innocent before God until the commandment comes, until sin becomes alive in his life. Until that time, where there is no law, sin is not imputed.

In Matthew 18:3 Jesus called a little child unto Him and said, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Jesus used a little child to teach the kingdom. Why? They are innocent before God. A little child has no sin. This is the reason we do not have infant baptisms. That came out of false religion.

Little children have no sin until they come to an age when they are able to exercise intellect and will, until they come to the place where they are able to choose right and wrong. Then when they choose wrong, their eyes are opened; they have committed sin. Until that time, a little child has no sin. This is why you need to train them, work with them, and instruct them in the things of God. Parents, you have a responsibility to bring them up the right way and train them in the things of God.

Romans 7:9 states, "For I was alive without the law once [that means he was alive unto God]: but when the commandment came, sin revived [or became alive, and what happened?], and I died." As a result of sin, spiritual death came. Where there is no law, there is no sin. What was Paul talking about? When the commandment came, Paul knew that down in his heart he could no longer plead that he was innocent. The commandment brought condemnation. The motions of sin were stirred and it became alive. Consequently, he died spiritually and was separated from God.

If there is sin in your life, you are separated from God. You may gather in amongst God's people, but in the eyes of God, you are separated from Him.

Romans 8:9b says, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." If we are alive unto God, we have the Spirit of God. If we truly repent and give up to God, and turn everything over to Him, we have His Spirit dwelling within us. Without the Spirit of God, there would be no life.

You and I have all the principles needed to commit sin. We have human, fleshly desires that cannot be kept under control without the Spirit of God. You did not inherit any sinful nature from Adam. The only thing you got from Adam is a fleshly body. Remember, Adam did not have a sinful, corrupt nature. So how did he sin? By choice. Knowingly and willingly, he overstepped God's commandment. The truth is this: We cannot blame our condition on Adam. He was responsible for his sin, and if you commit sin, you are responsible for yours.

The will of God is that you should be saved, but God gives you a will. You do not have to get saved. You can do what you want to do. However, when you exercise your will against the will of God, you commit sin. Some are influenced to commit sin earlier in life because of the way they have been raised; nevertheless, sin comes when one oversteps God's commandment, and that is what brings condemnation.

If you know there is sin in your life, be honest about it. Who is to blame? If you are not serving God, you cannot go back to Adam. Do not blame it on your mom and dad. They may have influenced you by not living right; but the truth is, if you are living in sin, you have no one to blame but yourself. You are the one who is exercising your will against the will of God.

Have you overstepped the will of God? Are you under condemnation? Do not go on any longer. Sin pays a terrible, terrible reward. Bring an end to sin in your life before you find yourself lamenting over your past life, thinking, "I would to God I had lived differently." Today is the day of salvation. If there is sin in your life, acknowledge it, confess it, and forsake it. If you will do that, you will be free from it. If there are things wrong in your life, won't you be man or woman enough to acknowledge your sin, confess it, and forsake it? When you go to the Judgment, you will never be able to blame somebody else. It will be your sin, your choice. Repent, turn around, and go God's way.