

# NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

## Salvation Part 3

All human beings are born in a state of sin and, therefore, need a Savior! The only exception to this was The Lord Jesus Christ. Though we all sin, this state of sin is based on Adam and Eve, the first people. Adam sinned and therefore all of his offspring are born in sin! The Bible calls this condition as being “under sin.”

**Romans 5:12** *“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”*

**Galatians 3:22** *“But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.”*

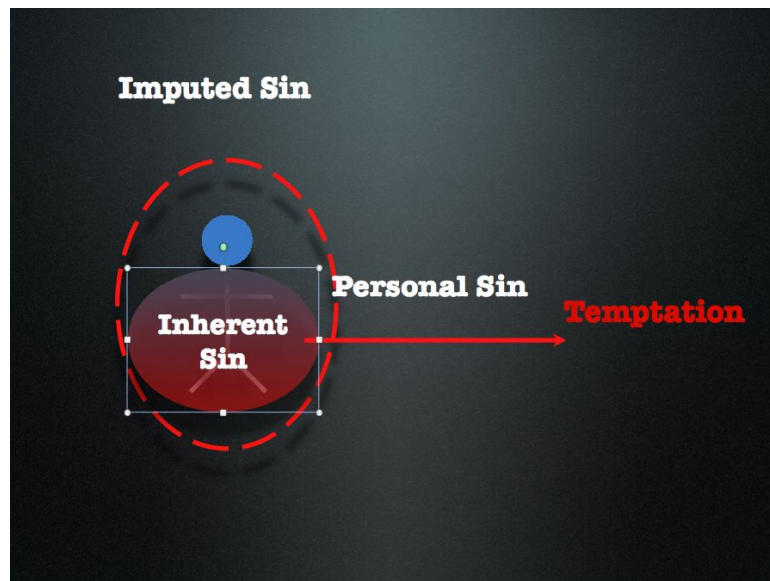
There are 3 types of sin, let us learn about them...

1) Imputed sin- Adam’s original sin passed on to all people at birth as a result of the fall in the Garden of Eden. (This is because, face it, we all would have disobeyed God if we had been in the Garden.)

2) Inherent sin- The old sin nature/flesh passed down, through the body, from generation to generation, which tempts us to sin.

3) Personal sin- The sin we commit with our own free will when we give into temptation.

**Romans 14:23** *“whatever is not of faith is sin”*



Adam was initially innocent in the Garden. He was tested, commanded NOT to eat from a specific tree in the garden, and he disobeyed, choosing sin over God.

Since man (that includes us) is no longer “good” or innocent, he cannot produce anything good. Let us consider a rotted tree. You cannot expect it to have perfect fruit. Well, can you? No, I think not. So, any “good” deeds or fruit produced from this sinful nature is bad fruit - rotten. Though something may be moral or nice or helpful, it does not necessarily mean it is from God, and anything compared to God’s perfection is pure evil!

**Matthew 7:17-18 “So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.”**

Sinful people tend to want to be independent from God’s plan, just like Adam in the Garden, and this is what produces personal sin. It is like a really strong magnet inside each of us that is constantly pulling us towards something ungodly (each of us have different weaknesses as a result). So, what is the solution?

Is God a God of righteousness? YES! Is God a God of Truth and Justice? YES! The answer, then, is that a righteous God would never create mankind, whom He loves, and then leave them stranded without a solution to the problem. Do you agree? If not, you need to get to know God! If you think God is a God that is waiting to SMASH you when you do something wrong, then you will not accept His plan of salvation! Without God you would not even be able to read the words on this page. You are reading these words, though, so this mean He has a great plan for you!

The problem that we have uncovered is that God requires perfect righteousness in order to fellowship with Him for all of eternity. Unfortunately, we are born just the opposite of that - totally unrighteous (depraved). Even our goodness without God is just plan ole’ evil!

God’s justice must be satisfied before His other aspects are accessible, such as love, grace, mercy, etc. Knowing that His justice must be satisfied and that His creatures could not do this on their own, He decided to take care of this for us. He cannot compromise His integrity by compromising His righteousness and make exceptions out of love - He cannot say, “Oh they are so sweet, they really do not mean it, I will just let them come and live with me forever even though they are sinners.” His own integrity will not allow it. What He did is mind-boggling...He was able to maintain His righteousness and, at the same time, provide a way for sinful man to be perfectly righteous, to have His Righteousness. He has the power and the resources to bring us to Him. We call this reconciliation, or restoring a friendship with.

We are born spiritually dead and therefore infinitely distant from God. The Cross of our Lord and Savior changed all of that.

**John 1:29** *"The next day he \*saw Jesus coming to him and \*said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

John the Baptist, the one who God chose to announce the coming Savior, stopped what he was doing when he saw Jesus Christ. He shouted, "Behold, the Lamb of God"! The word "Lamb" is used here in reference to the Old Testament Jewish ritual sacrifice done to pay for the people's sins. The priest would take a perfect lamb and sacrifice it to God as payment for the sins of the people. This required a perfect lamb and faith that if they followed God's law in doing so, their sins were forgiven. The phrase "the Lamb of God" had tremendous meaning to those Jews that were listening.

**Exodus 12:21** *" Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, 'Go and take for yourselves lambs according to your families, and slay the Passover lamb.'"*

The prophet Isaiah wrote this prophecy about Jesus' suffering on the cross.

**Isaiah 53:7** *"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth."*

So, when John the Baptist uttered the words, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world", he was referring to the Old Testament scriptures that prophesied it. The solution to our problem was a sacrifice...but not just any old sacrifice...oh no, God has standards...perfect ones! So our sacrifice had to be perfect. He had to be spotless:

**1 Peter 1:19** *"but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ."*

God demands perfection. He IS perfection. When God's perfect justice is satisfied, we call that propitiation. He removed the root "cause" of us being God's enemy - SIN. The Old Testament reconciliation, or payment for the sins of the people, only cleaned up the results of this sin problem. It paid for the sins that they currently committed. But, if they sinned again the next year, and they DID, another payment was needed, then the next year, and the next, and the next... Because of Jesus' sacrifice, though, the penalty has been paid and we are now called to trust in Him and His perfect sacrifice for our salvation from sin.