

## Doctrinal Summary of The Sin Nature of Man

In Romans 7:20 Paul identifies the principle that sin dwells within him, the believer.

“But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.”

The word “dwells” is translated from the Koine Greek words οικουσα (“oi-kous-ah”) which literally means, “performing the continuous type of action to reside as a matter of principle.” It is a feminine participle which identifies a principle of operation-sin dwells in the believer as a matter of principle. The feminine gender identifies that the dwelling of sin in the believer is based on response. The reality is that all who have been physically born have a nature of sin which dwells in them. Paul identifies this as the result of Adam’s original sin in Romans chapter 5 verse 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-“

The phrase, “because all sinned” is translated from the Koine Greek phrase, εφ ω παντες ημαρτον (“eph hoh pan-tes hae-mar-ton”) which literally means, “upon which all really performed the action in a point in time to miss the mark.” It is through Adam’s spiritual death being passed down through the process of physical birth that brings spiritual death to all men. When an individual is born physically, he in that point in time misses the mark in his nature because he is born spiritually dead. God’s original design was a human who is body, human soul, and human spirit. Missing any aspect of that design misses the mark of God’s design for humanity. Consequently, because every individual is born spiritually dead through the natural procreation process he is born missing the mark of God’s design. Adam missed the mark in his action (Gen. 3:6), died spiritually (Gen. 3:7), then passed his spiritual death down through physical procreation to all men (Rom. 5:12). David identified that he was born with a sin nature in Psalm 51:5.

“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.”

David isn’t identifying that the action in which his mother was engaged when he was conceived was sinful. He was making the distinction that his conception and biological development in the womb brought him forth into the world in a state of sin. Physical birth through the biological procreation process of fallen man produces fallen beings possessing natures that miss the mark of God’s original design. Eliphaz identifies to Job that that which is born physically of the woman is not righteous in Job 15:14.

“What is man, that he should be pure, or he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?”

Man is born physically alive and spiritually dead. This spiritual death misses the mark of God’s standard and establishes every individual as having a sin nature. The believer is a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17), being spiritually alive. Now the believer must choose whether to walk in the new spiritual man, or walk in the old man. When the believer walks by means of his spiritual nature he has fellowship with God. When the believer walks by means of the flesh he does not have fellowship with God (1 John 1:6-7), but rather submits himself to the leadership of his sin nature.