

Types of Sin

There are many aspects to sin that the Bible speaks of such as imputed sin or personal sin. Some concepts are implied such as original sin or inherited sin. What are these terms describing? How are they different?

1. **Original Sin.** Carefully study the following two passages and list all of your observations. Share your conclusion based on your data.

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Gen 2:16-17, NKJV)

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (Gen 3:6, NKJV)

2. **Imputed Sin.** Carefully study 1 Corinthians 15:21-22. Review the two passages of question #1 and share your findings with the class.

For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. (1 Cor 15:21-22, NKJV)

3. **Inherited Sin.** Examine Psalms 51:5. Ask questions to help sharpen your skill in observation.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me. (Ps 51:5, NKJV)

4. **Personal Sin.** From your observation of Ezekiel 18:20, what do you learn of this type of sin?

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. (Ezek 18:20, NKJV)

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Teacher Notes

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Help the student by asking probing questions that can help him focus his observations.

Sin describes the **moral** state of human beings. It is all about a human being's evil desire to place his self interests above God. Eve saw that the tree was "desirable to make one wise" as she was tempted to "be like God."

The **Original Sin** refers to the first act of disobedience to God's word: "you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

2. **Imputed Sin.** Carefully study 1 Corinthians 15:21-22. Review the two passages of question #1 and share your findings with the class.

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Ask the student: who received God's command not to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

Ask the student: who committed the actual sin? Who did God attribute responsibility of the Original Sin?

God commanded Adam not to eat the fruit when he was alone in the Garden of Eden and before Eve was created. He was suppose to teach Eve God's word.

Inform the student: the word "impute" is used in several places in the Bible, which can be seen by using a concordance. Use a Bible dictionary to understand this word.

1. Search: studylight holman
2. Select: StudyLight.org Holman Bible Dictionary
3. Select: the letter "I"
4. Select: impute, imputation

To impute is to set or place something in someone's account.

Imputed Sin refers to man's legal standing before God. As a representative of humanity, Adam's singular action affected everyone's **legal** standing before God and everyone received the judgment of Adam's act: death. Another way of understanding impute: when a leader of a country declares war, the whole country is at war whether or not its citizens agree or bear arms.

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Ask the student: what do you observe in the phrase, “I was brought forth in iniquity” or “in sin my mother conceived me?”

Ask the student: can you share an easier way to understand “born with a sinful nature?”

Help the student remember that sin is all about desire – the desire to place one’s self interest above God and disobey God’s word.

Inherited Sin is being born with the natural tendency to sin. In one sense, the genetics of Adam and Eve was changed where the nature to sin was passed down to successive generations.

4. **Personal Sin.** From your observation of Ezekiel 18:20, what do you learn of this type of sin?

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. (Ezek 18:20, NKJV)

Ask the student: how would you define personal sin?

Personal Sin is the **actual** manifestation of a person’s sinful nature and personally accountable for.

If there is time, review the different types of sin and answer any questions of confusion.