

General Topics :: Why do we sin?**Why do we sin?, on: 2005/3/28 11:39**

A friend of my two oldest boys went camping with us this weekend. Sitting around the campfire we were talking about God, and what Easter was all about... when this friend asked "Why do we sin anyway?"

Good question, eh?

I thought for awhile, and stumbled around a little... and then said "Do you want your parents to love you because they want to, or because they have no choice?" I then explained that I believe God made man with freewill to choose whether he will love and obey God because love that is forced is not love at all.

Anyone have any other thoughts on this question?

Krispy

Re: Why do we sin?, on: 2005/3/28 12:28

It is simple, we want to be the king and ruler of our own selves. We want to be boss!!

This is a quote from Winkie Pratney

"WHAT IS sin? Sin is not primarily the THINGS you DO. It is a state of will. It is a CHOICE of a strong ultimate end in life. It is intent of purpose wrongly and selfishly directed. It is denying God's right to be God in your life. His Holy anger flames out against sin because it destroys all that is beautiful and good in life. Man living in slavery to sin is a hollow mockery of the holy being once made in God's likeness and image. Yet we see Man from his first selfish choice forge an unbroken chain of deceit, pride, lust and rottenness.

Without God in His rightful place as Center and Director of the heart, nothing a man can do will spare him from the righteous wrath of the King of Kings. All his actions, deeds and works are made for selfishness. Aware of his defiance of God's right, but choosing to be ruled by desire, a sinner lives supremely to please only and ultimately himself. Every heartbeat of the life he borrows from God, he flaunts his rebellion in the face of ever-increasing guilt and coming judgment."

Re: Why do we sin? - posted by dann (), on: 2005/3/28 12:41

The "desire to sin" is alien to the human race, and only entered in through Adam's disobedience.

Sin, in this sense, is that resident indwelling desire to fulfill our own lusts - whatever they may be. It is that well from which springs our anger, jealousy, etc. Normally a person has no power to change these desires, since they do not spring from himself, but from the sin that is within him - he can only choose to obey these desires or deny them.

This is why Paul, in Romans six talks about "obeying sin" - he is talking about giving into the internal desire to sin.

Now - that internal desire to sin is not human - or at least not originally human - but something that came into humanity through Adam's disobedience - I repeat this because it is important to understand that the desire to sin is what is producing death in people - and it is what Christ came to destroy.

The Pharisees make a great example in this discussion. The Pharisees were religiously motivated men. They believed in God, and didn't want to go to hell - so they went about trying to obey God's law. They practiced a strict disciplined life whereby they suppressed sin - such that the outside of their cups were clean - that is, whenever they had a desire to sin, they didn't follow it through, but through supreme acts of self will, they suppressed that sin - they didn't obey it. For many of the Pharisees this was as good as they could do - they couldn't stop themselves from lusting, hating, etc. (that is, they could not deal with the desire to sin, or the inside of the cup) but could only stop themselves from acting on these sinful desires. They had come to a place where they believed they were keeping themselves from breaking the law of Moses; and they thought that this was what it was all about - pacifying God by not doing what they very much wanted to do. T

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They thought this self denial was holiness - and imagined their own righteousness and ancestry had purchased for them a place in heaven.

They dealt with sin by suppressing it. The best they could do under the law was to not act on the indwelling desire to sin

They still sinned in their hearts because there was nothing they could do about it. The law could not take away the desire to sin - it could only forgive through sacrifice.

Christ brought something new to the picture in that grace came through Jesus Christ. Not simply unmerited favor - any favor God had ever given mankind has been unmerited - and we have had plenty of that long before Christ - this grace that Christ gives can make powerless the internal desire to sin.

So, when we ask, why do we sin - we sin because we are obeying that internal desire to sin that came into the world through Adam.

The law could not deal with the desire to sin - it could only point out that sin was there. But the new covenant makes provision for this desire - this heart of stone (Ezek 36) this old man (Romans 6) - it can be taken away (rendered powerless) so that one no longer desires to sin. NOT that a person becomes better able to suppress sin - but that sin becomes weak and unable to impose itself on the believer. Not a better weapon to defeat the power of the enemy - but a disarming of the enemy so that the enemy no longer has strength to impose his will on the believer.

How does one receive this wonderful grace that enables us to be free from the very desire to sin? By grace through faith. We believe that this is the promise of God, and we receive the grace that enables freedom.

Now, God only gives this grace to the humble, so when we fail to receive it, we know immediately that we are not being humble before God in that moment, and we have to search and find where we were proud and exalting ourselves - then we repent of it and continue to believe that God is going to remove even the desire to do that sin.

This is, as far as I know, holiness 101. Every true believer has a desire to fellowship with God, but many have not been disciplined in the process of how to have fellowship with God.

So why do we sin? We sin because we choose to obey sin rather than God.

When we finally understand that sin is something that is killing us - we can appreciate how God loves us - because we don't see God as an angry Deity punishing sinners - we see God as the compassionate lover of our souls working tirelessly to turn us away from obeying that which is producing death in us.

Dan

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edited for clarity...

Re: Why do we sin? - posted by Angyl, on: 2005/3/28 12:58

Simple answer: We sin because we're stupid and we think we know what's best for us.

If we, as Christians and believers in an almighty and benevolent God who always wants what's best for us think that God is always right:

The only possible reason we could have for disobeying said God (sinning). is because we think we know better than He does how to handle things (such as our life and the planet. That, and the little matter of instant gratification/selfishness would explain other sins such as sex before marriage, etc. ;-)

Re:, on: 2005/3/28 13:32

Good answers, tho a little deep for a 9 year old kid!

I think what he was really asking was why would God create us with the ability to sin? Why put Himself and us thru all the garbage?

Krispy

Re: - posted by Angyl, on: 2005/3/28 15:10

Quote:

-----I think what he was really asking was why would God create us with the ability to sin?

Well then you already gave the right answer to that; He wanted people to CHOOSE to love Him. He has angels that adore and praise Him all the time, but it's just not the same...

they have no choice in the matter.

Re: they have no choice in the matter., on: 2005/3/28 15:50

Angels have free will. Lucifer was an angel, he had a free will.

What about 1/3 of the angels who rebelled against God?

Re: - posted by Angyl, on: 2005/3/28 16:06

As God is free to create vessels of wrath fitted for destruction, I believe 1/3 of the angels were similarly created by our God when He knew that his creation (mankind) would choose to follow evil.

If it were a simple act of freewill, we could easily expect to see about the same ratio of "saved" or "unsaved" angels that we see in humanity which would mean a WHOLE LOT MORE than 1/3rd of them would have followed Lucifer.

No, angels can NOT have freewill. At least not in the respect that we do, for if they did, God would still be casting out the occasional dissenter even today.

Last but not least in support of the argument; there is no salvation plan in place for the angels. They rebelled ONCE and are going straight to hell without chance of repentance. Why would that be?

I'm sure God knew just what He was doing when he made the 1/3rd that rebelled...

He was creating captains for those of us (humans) to follow if we choose not to follow Him.

Re:, on: 2005/3/28 16:18

Quote:
-----Last but not least in support of the argument; there is no salvation plan in place for the angels. They rebelled ONCE and are going straight to hell without chance of repentance. Why would that be?

I was going to bring that up... you beat me to it, Angyl.

I dont know why God created the angels the way He did... but "farther along we'll know all about it... "

Krispy

Re: - posted by Angyl, on: 2005/3/28 16:54

Quote:
-----I dont know why God created the angels the way He did... but "farther along we'll know all about it... "

Odd that you should mention that song today... Up until yesterday it wouldn't have meant a single thing to me because I'd never heard of it before...

until yesterday's practice, when our choir director said we'll be singing it for next Sunday's service and he singled me out to be part of a quartet leading the second verse...

Re: Why do we sin?, on: 2005/3/28 17:00

Krispy

Well you know why we sin from a biblical stand point.

We sin because the desires in our flesh are more pleasing to perform than the desires of the Spirit.

That is why it's such a hard time to walk after the Spirit, the present pleasures outweigh the eternal benefits of resisting.

Karl

Re: garbage vs holiness, on: 2005/3/28 17:18

Krispy

Very good thread!

I wrote in another post regarding the nature of God being revealed to humankind.

God literally placed Himself on this plane that He may experience the garbage thru Jesus Christ. Not that He wanted to live in sin, GOD FORBID. But that He lowered Himself to this level and robed Himself in the likeness of sinful flesh so that He could condemn sin in the flesh.

Before He (I am not sure how to put this) did not know (yeessh) what it was like to be human (oh that doesn't sound right).

I'll let Hebrews 2:14-18 explain it:

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily He took on Himself the nature of angels; but He took on Himself the s

eed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His bretheren, THAT HE MIGHT BE A MERCIFUL and FAITHFUL highpriest, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted."

There (whew) I am saved!

Karl

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/3/29 1:06

Quote:

-----Angels have free will. Lucifer was an angel, he had a free will.
What about 1/3 of the angels who rebelled against God?

why has not a single one of them repented?

Re: Why angels can not repent, on: 2005/3/29 5:48

This is a possible answer.

Satan (Lucifer) was one of the highest angels, perhaps the highest (Eze 28:14). Lucifer knew God in all His glory. For Lucifer and the other angels to rebel despite what they knew about God, it is the utmost of evil. As a result, God does not give Satan and the other fallen angels the opportunity to repent. Further, the Bible gives us no reason to believe they would repent even if God gave them the chance (1Peter 5:8). The Bible tells us that one of the things God judges on is how much knowledge of Him a person possesses (Luke 12:48). The fallen angels, then, are even much more deserving of God's wrath because of the exceedingly great knowledge they had about God.

How could the angels rebel if they had no free will?

Re:, on: 2005/3/29 8:52

Quote:

-----Before He (I am not sure how to put this) did not know (yeessh) what it was like to be human (oh that doesn't sound right).

I think you're ok with what you said... I understand what you mean. :-)

Krispy

Re:, on: 2005/3/29 8:55

Quote:

-----Odd that you should mention that song today...

I love that song... Randy Travis and Brad Paisley both put that song out on CD the same year (last year). Not sure which i like best, both are great renditions.

"Farther Along" ranks #6 on CMT's (Country Music Television) top 20 "all-time songs of the faith".

I want that song played at my funeral... if we're all still here.

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For my friends not in the USA, Randy Travis and Brad Paisley are country music artists... and both are saved.

Krispy

Re: - posted by Angyl, on: 2005/3/29 9:01

Quote:

-----For Lucifer and the other angels to rebel despite what they knew about God, it is the utmost of evil.

And Adam and Eve who walked and talked with God personally, yet rebelled does not constitute this "utmost evil?" They were immortal, and knew God face to face, yet still defied Him. If there is any "ultimate evil" (and that idea flies in the face of the truth we hold that all sins are equal and worthy of the same punishment in God's eyes), certainly they would have been guilty of it as well.

Quote:

-----How could the angels rebel if they had no free will?

Again, if they were created to do just that, that's what they would do. How could God's glory have been shown to the Israelites if Pharaoh hadn't been such an idiot? It's what God created him to do. Does all of God's hardening of Pharaoh's heart infringe on his free will?

Maybe...technically it does, but if God made him for that reason, then it is his choice. Likewise 1/3 of the angels could well have been made to be destroyed.

Re: - posted by dann (), on: 2005/3/29 11:50

Quote:

philologos wrote:
why has not a single one of them repented?

Using 1 Timothy 5:21 as an entry point into this tangent, "I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality." - I reason that those angels whom God elected did not fall - and those whom God did not sovereignly elect did fall.

I would reason that this is why they have not repented - they are not elect.

Dan
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Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/3/29 12:01

Quote:

-----How could the angels rebel if they had no free will?

who said they have no free will?

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Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/3/29 12:14

Quote:
-----I would reason that this is why they have not repented - they are not elect.

whoops we are back into that loop! If election is on the basis of foreknowledge and foreknowledge is foreknowledge of choice, we are back to 'why were they elect?' Because they 'chose' right, against those who 'chose' wrong. But initial choice is not the same as repentance which is to go against a previous choice.

So did God
create them, already programmed to do evil?
decree that they would inevitably choose to be evil?
allow them to make a choice?

If the latter, why are they given no option for repentance?

The real reason I am asking these unanswerable questions is to make the point that 'angelic' sin is different to 'human' sin, but 'human' sin had an 'angelic' ingredient through the temptation that came from an 'angel'. There is a difference too between Eve's sin and Adam's sin. Paul makes no reference to the ongoing consequences of Eve's sin, but has a whole section following the consequences of Adam's sin.

Re: - posted by Nasher (), on: 2005/3/29 12:20

Here is another unanswerable question - why do some men(or women) choose God, and others, do not?

Re: - posted by Angyl, on: 2005/3/29 12:30

Quote:
-----why do some men(or women) choose God, and others, do not?

Simply a matter of how much we are in love with our sin, I'd wager. It's the same way with how some people can walk a way from TV and elect to NEVER have it in their houses and other people think "*No way! You can have my Television when you pry it from my cold, dead fingers!*"

It's all a matter of how much you love doing what you want to do. God demands that you put that desire away and start doing what HE wants you to do. In essence, give him complete control of your life and walk away from most of the pleasures of this world for the (hope) of a bigger and better afterlife.

Some don't believe in the afterlife (I believe these people are lying to themselves. Scripture says that all men know--there will be no lawyers arguing ignorance before God come Judgement day)

Some believe, but simply decide I'd rather do my own thing...in fact, they flat out hate God for trying to interfere.

Re: - posted by Nasher (), on: 2005/3/29 12:43

Quote:
-----Simply a matter of how much we are in love with our sin, I'd wager.

What makes one person more in love with their sin than another?

Re:, on: 2005/3/29 13:12

Quote:

-----Here is another unanswerable question - why do some men(or women) choose God, and others, do not?

Do we choose God? Or does He choose us?

Krispy

Re: - posted by dann (), on: 2005/3/29 13:24

Quote:

philologos wrote:
...and foreknowledge is foreknowledge of choice...

I am not sure about this, so charity is in order ;-), but I think you are referring to 1 Peter 1? The place where Peter describes the elect as those who "are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father... to obey Christ"

If I wanted to answer the question - what is the object of the foreknowledge spoken of here - that is, what is it that God foreknew and based his decision upon; the answer, I believe could be found in the balance of scripture - that is, in other texts which speak of God's foreknowledge.

Paul gives us great clarity in the matter when he teaches, "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son"

Here we see that the God's foreknowledge is not a prior knowledge of some choice these people would make - but a prior knowledge of who these people are. God's election therefore was not a foreseen reaction to a choice we have made - rather God chose His 'elect' based solely on His own counsel with respect to the elect person.

Now, if one understands election in this way - we believe that God initiates and we respond - or said another way, we love Him, because he first loved us.

In the light of this understanding, these questions do not appear impossible to answer, but rather appear almost trivial:

Did God create the angels, already programmed to do evil? No. But He sovereignly determined to elect two thirds of all the angels according to His own counsel. Those whom God elected did not rebel against Him, while those whom God did not elect did rebel.

Those who rebelled were not programmed to rebel - they had perfect freedom to rebel or not, but chose freely to rebel according to their own desires. Notwithstanding, God knew beforehand that they would do so.

Did God decree that they (fallen angels) would inevitably choose to be evil? God knew beforehand what their choice would be - but God didn't make the choice for them.

Did God allow them to make a choice? I believe so.

I would however, agree with the notion that angelic rebellion is of a different order than human rebellion. Humans rebelled, in part, because of angelic 'tampering.' I would stop short of suggesting that this is why humans are given the opportunity to repent and angels are not - but I would get pretty close to it ;-)

Anyway, I don't want to bump this thread off the rails. I only mention these things because it seemed that you were tying God's foreknowledge to something different than I was - and I felt it might be edifying to offer my understanding.

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So far you have struck me as a sound and careful exegete, so I rest assured that you will duly consider whether I am off my rocker or not.

:-)

Dan
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Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2005/3/29 13:25

Quote:
-----What makes one person more in love with their sin than another?

It seems that there is a progression to it. I heard a definition of whoredom once as meaning, "To take the love that belongs to the one and give it to another." We are told, love not the world neither the things of this world.... As I recall that word there is agape. How could a person come to love the world unconditionally? There is a progression here I believe. We are told also not be a 'friend' of the world. The more one is fascinated by the world and the more love they give over to Sin, the stronger the 'bondage' is. To me it is as though the enemy uses a lot of 'smoke and mirrors' to deceive people into believing they will be somehow gratified by the sin. I have some other theories on it also... but...

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2005/3/29 13:28

Quote:
-----Do we choose God? Or does He choose us?

Yes.

Re: - posted by dann (), on: 2005/3/29 13:34

Quote:
-----Do we choose God? Or does He choose us?

I forget who it was who first used this example - and I am certain to be doing it more harm than flattery, never the less, I like the description:

The door to heaven is labelled "free choice" as you enter but looking back once inside it reads "Chosen before the foundation of the earth"

Dan
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Re: - posted by Angyl, on: 2005/3/29 14:17

Quote:
-----What makes one person more in love with their sin than another?

I'm going to generalize here, but I'd say their parents and their upbringing has 100% to do with their choice.

If you're taught to love the world rather than the things of God, then you will. If you're taught to be a lover of yourself over a lover of God, then you will.

This teaching comes from parents primarily, friends and associates as we are children on up.

It doesn't have to be a christian-based upbringing either...lots of people never hear a thing about Christ and accept Him as adults...it's all in how they were raised and what things they were taught to put trust in.

Re: choose God,, on: 2005/3/29 17:19

I won't try to answer this, but let me throw a monkey wrench by adding this verse.

Acts2:47

".....And the LORD added to the Church daily such as should be saved."

Karl

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2005/3/29 17:23

I would say that is a huge generalization. I know several people that were not raised in a "good moral" home that are now saved. But I understand your idea.. its probably coming from Pro 22:6? Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. And Yes, your parents do play a big part.

Looks like this is on the lines of the old Calvinist/Armenian debate.

Re: - posted by iHilam (), on: 2005/3/29 18:26

Quote:
-----The door to heaven is labelled "free choice" as you enter but looking back once inside it reads "Chosen before the foundation of the earth"

Even the angels have "free will". At least Lucifer and 1/3 of them did.

Re: - posted by Angyl, on: 2005/3/30 11:56

Quote:
-----I know several people that were not raised in a "good moral" home that are now saved.

But I didn't say anything about moral or immoral. I simply said it's a matter of what children are taught to put their trust in. Themselves, or feeling able to trust something other than themselves, this would include people, ideas, or a higher being.

I acknowledge that someone could be raised in the most hideous, amoral, unChristian home in the world and still be prepared to have faith in something greater than themselves later. Likewise, a child could be raised in a home that is wholly Christian and given over to the Lord, but if they aren't taught from a very young age to accept the notion that they can

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ean on arms greater than their own or to be able to have faith in things they can not see, they may never come to know t
he Lord.

Re: - posted by dann (), on: 2005/3/30 12:54

Quote:

iHilam wrote:

Even the angels have "free will". At least Lucifer and 1/3 of them did.

Calvinists believe in free will, with as much ferocity and zeal as Arminians do. It is always amusing (but sad too) to me t
o see representatives from both camps try and argue the other camp into understanding free will, when both readily adm
it that everyone has it.

The only difference being that Calvinists demand that God be sovereign even in the freedom of the will.

Dan

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Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/3/30 14:44

Quote:

-----The only difference being that Calvinists demand that God be sovereign even in the freedom of the will.

I may be wrong but I think it was RC Sproul who said, "God has free will. I have free will. When my free will runs into Go
ds', He wins."

I have come to believe that my will is never as free as when it has the will of the Holy Spirit behind it.

MC

Re:, on: 2005/3/30 14:48

When ever I think about the Calvinist/Armenian debate... I get a headache.

Krispy

Re: - posted by DezCall (), on: 2005/3/30 15:31

Quote:

-----I know several people that were not raised in a "good moral" home that are now saved.

You know, when I was sharing the Gospel with colleagues last saturday, one person came with this statement: "I believe
that you have to be raised with this, to become like you. Others won't".

Praise the name of Jesus, that's not the truth! God can save any sinner...whether he is raised with parents who know Ch
rist or not.

However I agree with you Angyl that parents have a tremendous great responsibility towards their children, to show the
m and teach them Christ. Many have forgotten that today. They're sending them to Sunday-school, they're blaming the y
outh leaders...but they should be the one to raise their children with Jesus Christ.

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I haven't followed all the posts going around here lately, I'm lacking a "little" bit of time right now...but about that Calvinistic/Armenian thinking guys...may I just be a little simplistic? Please forgive me, but..."I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness" (2 Corinthians 11:1 from the one and only NIV-version :-))

I'm neither a Calvinist nor an Armenian, I'm a **Christian!!** ;-)

Your brother,

Paul

Re: why can't angels repent - posted by dohzman (), on: 2005/3/30 16:30

Angels can't repent because there is no atonement available for them. Jesus' atonement for us was because he was born of the Virgin birth through Mary with the seed being that of a woman instead of the normal course of life where the seed comes from the father(adam). However Hebrews mentions that His blood went to cleanse even the things in heaven, but that reference is one I don't fully understand.

Re: why do people sin - posted by dohzman (), on: 2005/3/30 16:42

Basically because they are born into sin and its a very part of thier nature. They are dead to any kind of real love period. They can only express love out of a self motive. It is the task of the church and the administration of the Law of God through the preaching of God's Word that men are brought to a choice as to the yes or no to Jesus.

Re:, on: 2005/3/30 16:46

Quote:
-----However I agree with you Angyl that parents have a tremendous great responsibility towards their children, to show them and teach them Christ. Many have forgotten that today. They're sending them to Sunday-school, they're blaming the youth leaders...but they should be the one to raise their children with Jesus Christ.

Oh boy... if I only had a dime for everytime I've heard about parents whose kids are in trouble as teenagers blame the church! They say things like "We've had Jr. in this church for the last 15 years... and now he's a drug addict and his girlfriend is pregnant... the church failed us!"

My question would be... "Why were you not teaching them at home???"

This is a passage of scripture every single Christian parent should memorize... and live by:

Deuteronomy 11:18 *Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. 19 And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 20 And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: 21 That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.*

Hmmm... now thats interesting! I didnt see anything in there about the church teaching the children. I see the full responsibility being laid to rest squarely on the shoulders of the parents. Particularly... **the father.**

There will be a lot of Christian fathers standing before the Lord on that day... trying to explain why they ignored this, and many other scriptures.

I pray I'm not counted among them!

Lord, help me.

Krispy

WE SIN BECAUSE IT'S IN OUR NATURE TO SIN - posted by dohzman (), on: 2005/3/30 17:27

I posted something like this else where. All mankind sins because we are born dead and sin is part of our very nature. We can't love our way to obedience since we can only love out of a self centered love. We love God because He first loved us. I believe that the only way we are capable of love before salvation is a selfish or self centered type of love. Before regeneration I don't believe we're capable of loving God since basically we are spiritually dead and thoughts who worship (love's truest expression) God must do so in spirit and in truth. I know this opens up a can of worms in a lot of doctrinal positions and debates, so ---folks---be kind to this country preacher-----