



Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

“Origin of Sin” Series Lesson 1 Supplement – December 6, 2015

Additional Scripture and Issues Addressed on “Origin of Sin”

- I. Previous class discussions revolved around these key questions:
- If God created a perfect heaven, world and creatures within, then how could sin have come out of “perfection”?
 - Did God directly create evil or darkness, even though he himself is holy and perfect? Or did he create his world with the capacity for “evil” in his original creation, such as Lucifer? Or was it our “independent choice” within His perfectly created being that pride caused them to say “I am God” to create sin?
 - Questions came up about “free will” and choice concerning original sins from Lucifer and Mankind. How does this fit with “God’s Sovereignty” and “personal choice”. How dependent or independent from God are those choices? Can we truly have “free will” independent of any outside influences or do we really have “an independent will” that is always contained with God’s sphere of direction, influence or even direct choice for humans.

Key Points from Lesson 1:

- Overall position on sin/evil and its origination matches John Milton’s doctrinal position in “Paradise Lost” from 1667.
- Saint Augustine of Hippo from 354 has essentially the same definition of sin/evil
- Psalm 2 is the build-up to the heavenly war with Lucifer and Michael

II. Additional Scripture Teaching:

Creation Verses:

[Genesis 1 through 3 Select Verses](#)

Chapter 1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth....**3** And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. **4** God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day...**12** The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good... **18**...and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good...**26** Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, **27** So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them...**31** God saw all that he had made, and it was very good...

- Light and darkness are representative of physical light and dark, not spiritual
- God commented that what he created was good. We can speculate about this “good”, but it is reasonable and scripturally supported that any type of evil would not have been called “good by God
- After creation of the Garden of Eden and Mankind, God said it was “Very Good”

Chapter 2

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. **2** By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. **3** Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

- God created a “Holy Day” to account for His perfect creation, without evil or sin on earth

8 Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed....in the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...**16** And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; **17** but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

- Good and evil referenced is “Holy” verses “Evil of Sin”; This reference is made to Mankind for the first time, but Lucifer and his angels had already committed “sin”
- God did not create the “evil”, this is not something created as per our definition of evil; precedent already set through Lucifer
- Difference between “experiential knowledge” and “intellectual knowledge” for mankind and sin

Chapter 3

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ...**4** “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. **5** “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” **6** When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it...**22** And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” **23** So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

- Verse 1, Lucifer and his angels had to have already been expelled from heaven to have been on the earth as an evil force for mankind
- Verse 5 “Good and evil” does reference holy verses sinful
- Propose that Mankind’s choice to sin was analogous to the “origination of sin” by Lucifer; Desire to be God

[Isaiah 45:5-7](#)

5 I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, **6** so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know there is none besides me. I am the Lord, and there is no other. **7** I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things.

Interpretations and Points:

- The KJV version uses of the word “evil” as opposed to “darkness” for the NIV represent, but

does it mean 1) “evil of sin” or 2) “evil of punishment from sin”

- Several commentaries and interpretations said this:
 - He makes peace, put here for all good; and creates evil, not the evil of sin, but the evil of punishment. He is the Author of all that is true, holy, good, or happy; and evil, error, and misery, came into the world by his permission, through the willful apostasy of his creatures, but are restrained and overruled to his righteous purpose.
 - Hebrew word is normally translated natural calamity and disaster
 - God has no opposite. Satan is not and has never been Gods opposite. He is not the *author* of evil; evil is never original, but always a perversion of an existing good. Yet God is the *allower* of evil, and He uses it to accomplish His eternal purpose of bringing together all things in Jesus ([Ephesians 3:8-11](#) and 1:9-10). He knows how to use what He allows for His eternal purpose. The Lord is no representative of evil as such, but He does make use of evil so that it may bring forth good. (Calvin, cited in Butlema)
- In summary, this scripture should not be used to support a doctrinal position that God “created Evil”, the evil of “sin”. He is perfect and Holy, which would not create something that is not perfect.

Integrating God’s Sovereignty and Man’s Choice and Responsibility

Interaction of these two truths; 1) Absolute sovereignty of God and 2) Man’s freedom of choice and real accountability is expressed Biblically:

1. Man chooses to act (within his physical powers), making choices based on those items which guide his spirituality state, physical state, affections, thoughts of right/wrong, desires, joys, all of which come from stimuli reaching him (God’s Will and Plan)
2. Man’s freedom of choice which is truly both real and free
3. Understanding the use and various definitions of “Free Will” Are Important:
 - One viewpoint defines “free will” as the “faculty or power or principle...of choosing or choice without any prior prejudice, inclination or disposition.” Man’s will is choices made in a kind of vacuum with nothing influencing him. Otherwise we could say man possesses “free will,” with free choices and being truly responsible
 - Other viewpoint depicts Mans choices in the context of God’s Plan, God’s influences and God’s will in addition to our own spiritual, physical state. You have the freedom to choose, but not outside of the influence and direction of God
 - Classical “Free Will” assumes that your choices are made outside of influence, direction or control; this is different from the Freedom to Choose
4. God freely determines, what and which stimuli reach and touch each and every aspect of this world, including man (Job, Joseph, Pharaoh)
 - Based on His Sovereignty and Plan
 - Determines and knows all according to His free purpose and will. This is God’s true and real sovereignty in all spheres of His created universe.
5. Combining the points above is how both **1)** man truly has freedom to choose - free and accountable - and at the same time, **2)** God’s will is done both in heaven and on earth, not

just foreknowing (although true), but ordaining everything which comes to pass for His glory.

Think of man receiving and choosing a given preference/choice between alternatives in the middle of their multi-stimulus world. Now think of God letting in and out life-experiences in our sphere. Man's preferences born out of the interaction of his life-experiences and God's will/influences. This, in short, is the interaction of man's choices within God's free Lordship of His world and its working. Man, determining his response influenced by what and where the stimuli touches him, and God's purpose determining as to how and who the stimuli reaches.