

THE FALL

A. Definitions

1. Sin -- "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness" (1 Jn 3:4). Sin is more than just an action. Sin is an action that leads to a status or condition. For example, knowing of status is position relating to another. So sin is position in relation to God or His commandments. The sinner is the one who commits sin and is in the status of sin. Sin is not merely a physical characteristic such as being short, tall, beautiful, or having green or brown eyes. It is more related to the status such as poverty. This is the position of disobedience, of breaking the law of God. So a sinner is the one who commits sin and is in the status of sin. Any law-breaker is called a criminal because he committed a crime.

2. Punishment -- There are two types of punishment. One is an outcome of action, as if you speed and lead to accident, which is an outcome of our speeding. But there is a punishment that is not related, as if you speed and get a ticket. The ticket here is different from the accident. Likewise, there is a difference with a student who doesn't study and fails the exam, and does not graduate. The teacher here only announces your performance, but is not the direct cause of your failure. In similar way God announced to Adam and Eve the consequential punishments that resulted from their disobedience. If his parents decide to take away his car as a punishment, this is not just announcement of a condition, but a direct and personal act chosen by parents to inflict on their son.

3. Inheritance. While you could inherit something physical (eyes, height, etc.) that can be attributed to a gene or chromosome, the inheritance we speak about is the condition or status such as poverty, richness, good reputation. If a rich father loses his riches and became poor out of negligence or wrongdoing, when he has children inherited the condition of poverty from their parents but not their fault (of negligence or wrongdoing). We are called sinners because of the sin of Adam because we inherited this condition, the law of sin working in us.

4. Guilt is defined as a state of having committed an offense, crime, violation or wrong especially against moral or penal law. One can be punished without being guilty, as a rich family that did something wrong and their family live in poverty. The children didn't do any wrong but they live in poverty. Or a passenger in a car whose driver is driving recklessly got into an accident, the passenger is not guilty but suffers the consequence.

5. Sin of Adam. Adam is the origin of the human race and his sin is the first sin. So it is the origin of all sins, as the beginning.

6. Corruption means change. Condition just as an apple which becomes corrupted. Change that goes from good to evil.