

CONTROLLING SIN: CAIN'S IMPOSSIBLE DUTY

How Sin Entered the World (Review)

Genesis 1:31 & 2:1-17 & 3:1-23

2:1 God finished making all the many, many things in the heavens and on the earth. 1:31 God looked at everything he made: It was very good!

2:8 God planted a garden – the *Garden of Eden*. And God put Adam, the first man, in the garden. 16 God said to Adam, “You can eat fruit from any tree in the garden. 17 But you must not eat fruit from the *Tree of Knowing Good & Evil* – because, if you eat it, you will certainly die.”

3:1 Satan came to the woman, Eve, and 4 said, “You will not die. 5 You will become wise. You will be like God – you will know good and evil!”

6 So she took the fruit – and she ate it. Her husband was with her. So she gave the fruit to her husband – and he ate it. 8 Then Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden. And Adam and Eve hid from God. 13 Then God said to Eve, “What bad thing did you do?”

22 And God said, “Now the man knows good and evil. So we must not let the man eat fruit from the *Tree of Life* (that is in the middle of the garden) and live forever – we must not let the man live forever. 23 So God kicked Adam [and Eve] out of the *Garden of Eden*.”

Cain's Impossible Duty (Review)

Genesis 4:1-8

4:1 Adam slept with his wife Eve – and Eve became pregnant. And Eve gave birth to a son, Cain. 2 Later Eve gave birth to another son, Abel.

3 After a while, Cain brought an offering to God. 5 But God was not happy [1] with Cain – and God was not happy [2] with Cain's offering. So Cain was very angry – and he felt down.

6 Then God said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why do you feel down? 7 Do what is right – and I will accept you. But, if you do wrong, sin is crouching at your door – sin wants to own you. But you must rule over sin – you must control sin.

8 Then Cain attacked Abel – and Cain killed Abel.

CONTENT QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What did God tell Cain to do? (Genesis 4:7)
- Did Cain do what was right? Did Cain control sin? Did Cain rule over sin? (verse 8)
[Sin = bad thoughts, bad words, bad actions – and not obeying God]

Can we always control sin? Can we always do right – and never do wrong?

If we say: “I have never sinned” – we are saying: “God is a liar.”

1 John 1:10

WHY DO WE ALL SIN?

What do all parents tell their children?

Do parents say: “Do bad things”? Or do parents say: “Do good things”?

Why are 2-year-old children not respectful and not obedient to parents?

Why are they angry, stubborn and selfish?

Why do bad things pour out of their hearts?

I was sinful when I was born – I was sinful when my mother conceived me.

Psalms 51:5 or 7

Really?! Do our cute, little babies sin?

No. Cute, little babies don't sin.

Babies are too little to sin!

Do baby birds fly?

No. Baby birds don't fly.

Baby birds are too little to fly.

But baby birds have flying **in** them!

So, in about 2 weeks baby birds will fly.

And our babies have Sin **in** them!

So, in 2 years, bad things pour out of our babies' hearts.

So we call it: The Terrible Twos!

So we are born with bad hearts – not good hearts. This is our big problem!

WHY ARE WE BORN IN SIN?

Sin entered the world through one man – Adam.

Romans 5:12

So, we inherited our Old Self * (our Sin Nature) from our first ancestor.

Really?!

Yes! Where did your hair color and your eye color come from?

So our Old Self (Sin Nature) also came from our ancestors.

HOW POWERFUL IS SIN?

- What does Sin want to do to us? (verse 7)

Jesus said, “Do you sin? Then you are Sin’s slave.”

John 8:34

How serious is this problem? How serious is it to be Sin’s slave?

34Jesus said, “Are you Sin’s slave? 35Then you are not a member of God’s family forever – because a slave is not a member of a family forever – a slave is only a worker. But a son is a member of God’s family forever!

John 8:34-35

HOW POWERFUL IS JESUS? CAN JESUS MAKE US FREE?

34Jesus said, 36“I am God’s Son [so I have God’s power]. So I can free you from being Sin’s slave. If I make you free, you will really be free!”

John 8:34, 36

Who can make us free from being sin’s slave?

Who can make us a son in God’s family?

How did Jesus make us free?

8We died on the cross with Jesus. 6Our Old Self was a slave to Sin – but our Old Self was put on the cross with Jesus. So, now, we are not Sin’s slaves. 7Why? Because we have died – our Old Self died with Jesus. So we are free from Sin – 14now Sin is not our slave master.

Romans 6:6-7, 14

A dead slave does not have to obey the slave master anymore!

(Romans 6:7, 14 & 7:1-4)

So we have a new identity!

Are you in Jesus – do you believe in Jesus? Then you are brand new! The old you is gone. Look! You have become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

We have a New Self!

Your New Self is made to be like God – your New Self is made good.

Ephesians 4:24

BUT JESUS DIED 2000 YEARS AGO! HOW CAN JESUS HELP ME TODAY?

How can Jesus give us a new identity?

14Jesus became human like us. Why? So he could die for us 15and make us free.

Hebrews 2:14-15

Jesus is our representative – Jesus died for us (if we believe in Jesus).

So, when Jesus died, we died.

For example: 200 years ago in Japan...

The Tanaka family had one daughter and no sons.
So the Tanaka family name could not continue.

So a son in the Mori family agreed to marry the Tanaka's daughter.
And the Mori son took the Tanaka family name.
Now, he was not a member of the Mori family –
now, he was a member of the Tanaka family.

So all his children, grandchildren and descendants became Tanaka's –
they did not become Mori's.

His decision 200 years ago changed the identity of all his descendants!
When he changed his name, all his descendants' name changed too –
because he represented all his descendants.

WE HAVE A NEW IDENTITY. SO CAN WE AUTOMATICALLY CONTROL SIN?

No, it is not automatic.

But now we can control sin.

Before we believed in Jesus, we could not control sin.

So we still must fight against Sin and our Old Self –
we must fight until our body dies and we go to heaven.

But we can do good – because we are not Sin's slave – and we have a New Self.

So how can we do good now? How can we obey God? How can we make God happy?

Live everyday by the Holy Spirit's power – then you won't do the bad things that your Old Self wants to do.

Galatians 5:16

3If we follow the Holy Spirit (Jesus' Spirit / God's Spirit) – and if we don't follow the Old Self – we can do what God's Law expects.

Romans 8:4

What does God's Law expect?

37Love your God. 39And love other people.

Matthew 22:37, 39

But when we sin, what must we do?

Tell God our sins – and God will forgive our sins – and make us 100% clean.

1 John 1:9

Good news! When we see Jesus in heaven, we will never sin again! It will be automatic!

* "Old Self" used here because it is easier to understand. In Greek (the language of the New Testament) the word is: "flesh."
"Flesh" does not mean our physical bodies. "Flesh" (apparently) means everything in us that fights against God and cannot and will not make God happy.