

## The Sinful Nature

The Bible emphatically declares that every human being has sinned. In chapters 1, 2, and 3 of Romans, Paul demonstrated that all mankind is guilty before God. He concluded, “We have... proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable, there is none that doeth good, no, not one... For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:9-12, 23). The Apostle John stated, “If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:10). Even the Old Testament affirms “*There is no man that sinneth not*” (I Kings 8:46; II Chronicles 6:36).

Sinful acts arise from the nature of sin that all human beings inherit as a result of the sin of Adam, the first representative of the human race. The sinful nature is also known as the flesh or the carnal man. “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me” (Psalm 51:5). “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9). “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).

The penalty for sin is death, but just as we were led into sin and death by one man, Adam, so we can receive forgiveness and life through one man, Christ. “For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous” (Romans 5:19). “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive” (I Corinthians 15:22).

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