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# BIBLE TALK

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The question this week is: **Are men sinners by birth, or by choice?**

The answer to this question is important, because it will tell us where to place the blame for sin.

- **If men are sinners by birth**, then men cannot help being sinners. They would simply be helpless victims. If they end up in hell it is someone else's fault because they were simply born that way.
- **If men are sinners by choice**, then they themselves would be responsible for their own actions. If they end up in hell it would be their own fault because they had a choice. It did not have to turn out this way, but they chose for themselves to be sinners.

These are the only two options we have. Either men are born sinners, or they choose to be sinners on their own, but there is no third alternative.

If the first option is true and men are born sinners, it would not be a very fair system would it? Under this system men would be cast into hell and burn forever and ever and suffering torment throughout all eternity for something they could not help. This would make God, not a loving God, nor a just God, but would make God to be an unfair tyrant who tortures helpless victims.

On the other hand, if men are sinners by choice, it would be a fair system. Men could choose to serve God and be saved in heaven, or they could choose to disobey God and be lost in hell. If they chose to sin and if they ended up suffering in hell, it would not be God's fault. God would not be unfair, nor unjust because men had a choice and they chose for themselves which life to live and they can blame only themselves for how things turned out.

## WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

What's the correct answer? According to the Bible, are men sinners by birth, or by choice?

In order to give a Scriptural answer to this question, it is important that we define what sin is. Sin is not something a baby inherits. Sin is something a person does. Sin is the transgression of God's law!

### **1 John 3:4 (KJV)**

<sup>4</sup> Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

If sin is a transgression of the law, a person would have to actually do something wrong to be a sinner. But a baby has done nothing wrong. A baby has not transgressed any law of man, or of God. There is no court on earth, or in heaven that could convict a baby of wrong doing! This is why Jesus said:

### **Matthew 18:3**

<sup>3</sup> ... unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Listen to this! If we want to go to heaven we must be converted! When we are converted and saved, what shall we be like? Is there an example of what a converted, saved person is like? Yes ... children are examples of what a converted, saved person should be like. Jesus said we must become like children if we hope to go to heaven. Children are pure and free from sin. They are innocent and sincere and we must be like them to go to heaven.

If men are sinners from the moment of birth Jesus could not have used children as examples of what we should be like.

The Scriptures teach over and over again that men are sinners by choice! Men choose for themselves whether to serve God and live, or whether to sin and die.

### **Joshua 24:15**

<sup>15</sup> And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Here is Joshua offering the people of Israel a choice. They could choose to serve God. They were not forced to sin. When they sinned they could blame only themselves because they made the choice!

Again:

### **Deuteronomy 30:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> [Moses said] I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

<sup>20</sup> that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, ..."

We have a choice to make! Before us is life and death, heaven and hell. We are not predestined to go to either place. We choose for ourselves whether to serve God and live, or whether to reject Him and die.

In the New Testament the apostle of the Lord wrote:

**2 Corinthians 5:10**

<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

We will be judged by God for what we did in our bodies. We will not be judged and condemned because we were born sinners. God is not unrighteous and unjust! He has provided us with His wonderful law. When we make mistakes and violate His law the Father offers us forgiveness thru His Son who was sacrificed for our sins. Not only this, when we sin the Lord gives us time and opportunity to repent and come back. Jesus is pictured as a loving Shepherd who would leave 99 safe sheep and seek for 1 lost sheep (Lk 15:4-7).

God loves us. He pleads with us. He has provided for us and He gave His only begotten Son to die for us. If we end up lost in hell it will not be God's fault. It will not be because we were victims and couldn't help it. It will not be because we were born sinners and just couldn't help it. No, my friend, if we are lost on Judgment Day it will be because we chose to sin and reject the great offer of salvation. Men are sinners by choice!

Please listen carefully to the following passage of Scripture:

**Ezekiel 18:20**

<sup>20</sup> The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

There you have it. Our guilt and sin is not inherited at birth from our parents. We answer for our own sins which we choose commit.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website [www.WillOfTheLord.com](http://www.WillOfTheLord.com). There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on Bible Talk.