

Original Sin Bible Study



Adam And Eve Being Banished From The Garden Of Eden By An Angel Of God (A Cherubim)¹

GENESIS 3:23-24 23 therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Welcome to this study on the topic of Original Sin. Let's open in a word of prayer.

Let's begin this study with a prayer.

The Come, Holy Spirit Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful;
And enkindle in them the fire of Your love.
Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let Us Pray . . .

O God, Who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the gift of the same Spirit that we may always be truly wise and ever rejoice
in His consolation, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

¹ Stained glass window art. Church of St. Aignan, Chartres, France. The prophecy of Genesis 3 concerning "The Woman" and "Her Seed" can be seen in the background over the angel's "arm".
Adam and Eve expelled from Paradise, 1887 See: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chartres_Saint-Aignan811.JPG

Notes

Introduction

- As we study the topic of Original Sin, we will let the Church remind us of the importance of this doctrine as well as review some basic catecheis.
- We will look at what “sin” is.
- Then in order to even define “Original Sin” we will need an understanding of “original holiness” and “original justice” and Adam and Eve’s being made “very good” when they were created. We will also briefly look at just a definition of Original Sin, but come back to studying it later.
- At this point in the study, we will go back through creation in general and especially expounding on man.
- We will see man’s created nature and how God gave special “preternature” gifts to mankind.
- Then we will look at “The Fall” and the results (Original Sin) of that catastrophe especially upon our-now injured human nature.
- We will see God prophesying a remedy for this injured nature but in the meantime, man is banished from “Paradise”.
- We’ll see we can only pass on our nature to our children and man’s nature is now injured.
- And we will look at just the beginning of that remedy (Baptism) for our injured nature for us and for our children.

Doctrinal Importance

It is utterly important to “get it right” on the doctrine of Original Sin, because so many things are built upon this doctrine.

CCC 389 b . . . The Church, which has the mind of Christ, knows very well that we cannot tamper with the revelation of original sin without undermining the mystery of Christ.

SIN

Before we embark on this study, it will be necessary to define “sin”.

Sin is a lack of, or “failure” in genuine love for God and neighbor, and more (see CCC 397 below).

CCC 1849 Sin is an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; **it is failure in genuine love for God and neighbor** caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods. **It wounds the nature of man and injures human solidarity.** It has been defined as “an utterance, a deed, or a desire contrary to the eternal law.”¹²¹

Everything God creates is good. So sin MUST be a LACK of this good.

Evil and sin can only come from a being with free will that CHOOSES to reject good in some sense.

CCC 397 Man, tempted by the devil, let his trust in his Creator die in his heart and, abusing his freedom, disobeyed God's command. This is what man's first sin consisted of.²⁷⁸ **All subsequent sin would be disobedience toward God and lack of trust in his goodness.**

Original Sin

Remember, everything God creates is good. We saw that “sin” is a “lack or “deprivation” of goodness. Original sin too is a “lack” or “deprivation”.

Adam and Eve were made by God’s grace.

Adam and Eve were made in the “image and likeness” of God having a rational nature and free will.

Adam and Eve were created with a constitution (“**constituted in**”—CCC 375) that included Original Holiness and Original Justice.

CCC 375 The Church, interpreting the symbolism of biblical language in an authentic way, in the light of the New Testament and Tradition, teaches that our first parents, Adam and Eve, were **constituted in an original "state of holiness and justice"**.²⁵⁰ This **grace** of original holiness was **"to share in. . . divine life"**.²⁵¹

When Adam and Eve sinned, **they LOST the original holiness and justice** they were graced with and their nature was now injured or “wounded”. That’s WHY Original Sin is called a “**deprivation**” of original holiness/justice. (More catechesis on Original Sin in Table)

CCC 404 How did the sin of Adam become the sin of all his descendants? The whole human race is in Adam "as one body of one man".²⁹³ By this "unity of the human race" all men are implicated in Adam's sin, as all are implicated in Christ's justice. Still, the transmission of original sin is a mystery that we cannot fully understand. **But we do know by Revelation that Adam had received original holiness and justice not for himself alone, but for all human nature.** By yielding to the tempter, Adam and Eve committed a *personal sin*, but this sin affected the *human nature* that they would then transmit *in a fallen state*.²⁹⁴ It is a sin which will be transmitted by propagation to all mankind, that is, by the transmission of **a human nature deprived of original holiness and justice**. And that is why original sin is called "sin" only in an analogical sense: **it is a sin "contracted" and not "committed"** - a state and not an act.

Definition:

CCC 417 Adam and Eve transmitted to their descendants human **nature wounded** by their own first sin and hence **deprived of original holiness and justice**; **this deprivation is called "original sin"**.

Creation & Adam BEFORE Jesus Gave Adam The Breath Of Life

All God's creation is "good" (Genesis 11a, 12b, 1st Timothy 4:4a, and elsewhere).

God created all things . . . through Jesus². St. John's Gospel hearkens us back to Genesis 1 and Creation.

JOHN 1:1-3 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was **with God**, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God; 3 **all things were made through him**, and without him was not anything made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was **the light** of men.

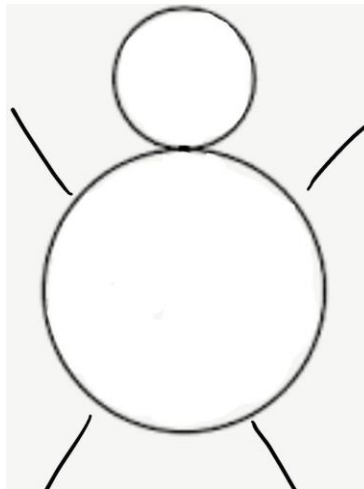
GENESIS 1:1-3 1 IN the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the **Spirit of God** was moving over the face of **the waters**. 3 And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was **light**.

God creates "out of nothing" or "ex-nihilo" (see also CCC 293, 295-298). All of the cosmos (including time itself) are all creations of God. God created **matter**, **spirits (angels)**, **space**, and **time**.

ROMANS 4:17 b, d God . . . who . . . **calls into existence the things that do not exist**.³

God creates Adam from the ground that He created out of nothing in Genesis 2:4-7. But Adam is still merely a "form" ("formed"). Man needs more. Let's see God give us "more" . . .

GENESIS 2:4b, 5b-7a . . . In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, . . . the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; 6 **but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground--** 7 **then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground.** . . .



**Adam BEFORE God gave Adam the Breath of Life.
(Note the "void" in Adam. Nothing in Adam yet.)**

² Also: **HEBREWS 1:2-3a** 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a **Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, **through whom also he created the world**. 3 He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his **nature, upholding the universe**. . .

³ See also 2nd Macc. 7:22-23, 28. Also **CCC 296** We believe that God needs no pre-existent thing or any help in order to create, nor is creation any sort of necessary emanation from the divine substance.¹⁴⁴ God creates freely "out of nothing":¹⁴⁵

Adam AFTER Jesus⁴ Gave Him The Breath Of Natural Life

Scripture teaches us that **ALL** of God's creation is initially described as "**good**" (Genesis 1:4-25). But after He made man⁵ (and breathed life into him), His creation was now described as "**very good**".

GENESIS 1:31a 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was **very good**.

CCC 343 *Man is the summit of the Creator's work, as the inspired account expresses by clearly distinguishing the creation of man from that of the other creatures.*²¹¹

God "breathes" His life into Adam (CCC 703). This life included a rational **nature** and a free will. But it also included gifts of **grace such as original holiness** (see again CCC 373) **and original justice**.

Remember. Original holiness is a GRACE that somehow could be passed on to Adam and Eve's descendants **IF** Adam and Eve remain sinless. This is a mystery concerning HOW that would occur⁶.

CCC 404b But **we do know** by Revelation that Adam had received original holiness and justice not for himself alone, **but for all human nature**.

Adam and Eve were made in the "image and likeness of God".

(For more catechetical details of being made in the "image and likeness of God", please see Table .)

Let's review Adam being made into a living being now . . .

GENESIS 2:6-7 6 but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground--
7 then **the LORD God** formed man of dust from the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**⁷; and **man became a living being**.

⁴ The reason I say "Jesus" here can be seen in John 1:3 and Hebrews 1:2.

⁵ **CCC 369b** . . . Man and woman are both with one and the same dignity "in the image of God". In their "being-man" and "being-woman", they reflect the Creator's wisdom and goodness.

⁶ We don't know HOW Adam and Eve could transmit the grace of Original Holiness to their offspring had they not sinned. God would have intervened here because **passing grace to your offspring is not in the order of nature**. This is not surprising that this is a mystery as even the passing on of Original Sin is a mystery (see CCC 404b).

⁷ **Keep this "Breath of Life" idea in mind for in the future because on the Cross, Jesus "Breathed" His last while simultaneously breathing life into the Church which began to be birthed or "born" that first Easter day⁷ (CCC 766). Jesus breathed life into Adam. Jesus in a sense, "breathed life" INTO the Church too when he "breathed" His last and out of His side came blood and water. (See CCC 766⁷, Mark 15:37, 39⁷, John 19:32-34 and 1st John 5:6-8)**



**“Life” was now “breathed into” Adam along with Original Holiness and Justice.
The lighted tea-candle inside of Adam here is a mere symbolic representation of
“Original Holiness and Original Justice (CCC 375)”**

How about details concerning Eve?



**Eve was made from Adam.
The lighted tea-candle inside of Eve is again a mere representation of Eve’s
“Original Holiness and Original Justice”**

God put Adam in a “deep sleep” and formed Eve out of Adam’s side (Genesis 2:21-24). Eve had received Original Holiness and Justice too. This is a mystery as how Adam’s grace of Original Holiness and Original Justice were passed on to Eve, but it is a gift of God.

GENESIS 2:21-22 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; 22 and the rib which the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Remember this! Why?

Because later in other studies, we will see the Bride of Jesus Christ, that is, His Church (Ephesians 5), ALSO comes from Jesus' side while Jesus is not merely in a "deep sleep" but dead!

It is not by accident that St. Paul explicitly refers to Adam as a "type" of Jesus!

Jesus is the New Adam. Contrariwise, Adam was a "type" or prefigurement of Jesus⁸ (see Romans 5:14).

ROMANS 5:14-15a 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of **Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come**. 15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. . . .

God Made Adam And Eve Married

God made Adam and Eve "One" in the context of MARRIAGE —See Genesis 2:23-31 ("wife") and implied in CCC 1602. When discussing marriage, Jesus implied Adam and Eve were married in Matthew 19:4-5.

The whole purpose of marriage is to get each other to heaven "(good of the couple)", and to give Godly offspring to God ("the generation and education of children"; see CCC 1652 and 1660).

The very first words from God to humanity was the command to "**be fruitful and multiply**" in this marital context.

(Many people miss God's very first command! And so because they might not know better, they choose what "the world" says—to embrace sterility and contraception. But God is Good and gives us the Confessional for Him to correct such errors.)

GENESIS 1:28a 28 And God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful** and multiply . . .

Q: What Is The Substance Of Mankind? A: Mankind Is A Body-Soul Composite Being

God is all spirit⁹. And Adam was made in the image and likeness of God in the sense that Adam is a rational being with free will and personhood.

Adam (and Eve) have a Spirit too. But man is also made of a body.

CCC 362a The human person, created in the image of God, is a being **at once corporeal and spiritual**.

⁸ Jesus' Bride, the Church is a type of the new Eve. (The Blessed Virgin Mary is a type or "typus" of The Church [see CCC 967] and thus is ALSO "the New Eve" in a different and unique sense.)

⁹ About 2000 years ago God the Son took flesh (flesh from the Blessed Virgin Mary) to Himself and thus God the Son is True God AND True Man.

But Man is not merely a body PLUS a spirit, but rather we are a **body-spirit composite**¹⁰.

CCC 365 The unity of soul and body is so profound that one has to consider the soul to be the "form" of the body:²³⁴ i.e., it is because of its spiritual soul that the body made of matter becomes a living, human body; **spirit and matter, in man, are not two natures united, but rather their union forms a single nature.**

What Is The Purpose of Life?

What is the purpose of life? Why is God even making Adam and Eve? Why did God make us?¹¹

BALTIMORE CATECHISM God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him for ever in heaven. (See also CCC 358a)

Adam's And Eve's Nature (BEFORE It Was Injured By Their Sin They Committed)

Man is made in the image and likeness of God.¹² Man had many gifts in being created.

Adam and Eve are made with some sort of an excellent relationship with God that included graces of "Original Holiness" and "Original Justice" (See CCC 375, 376, 379, 384, 399, 400, 404, 416, & 417) that was given to them as part of their "constitution" ("constituted"—see CCC 375 [below] and 398).

Had Adam and Eve NOT sinned, they would have been able to pass-on their excellent "constitution" or uninjured "**preternature**" including original justice, to their offspring (CCC 404b) who would also be graced from God with Original Holiness! (How this could occur is a mystery.)

CCC 41a All creatures **bear a certain resemblance** to God, most especially man, **created in the image and likeness of God. The manifold perfections of creatures - their truth, their goodness, their beauty all reflect the infinite perfection of God. . . .**

Adam and Eve were made with great gifts from God, sometimes called "**preternatural gifts**."

Preternatural¹³ (pree-ter-natural) powers in man are gifts from God given to man that are beyond the powers of the proper nature of man, but powers that MAY be seen in other areas of nature¹⁴. For our purposes, just think of **preternatural gifts** as "**special-extended nature**".

¹⁰ See also CCC 382 and CCC 2516.

¹¹ But God created us not just for Himself and for us, but for each other including the angels in Heaven.

EPHESIANS 3:9b-10 God who created all things; 10 that through the church the manifold **wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers** ("powers and principalities" = "angels") in the heavenly places.

¹² **CCC 42a** God transcends all creatures. We must therefore continually purify our language of everything in it that is limited, image-bound or imperfect, if we are not to confuse our image of God . . .

¹³ **Preternatural Gifts.** Favors granted by God above and beyond the powers or capacities of the nature that receives them but not beyond those of all created nature. Such gifts perfect nature but do not carry it beyond the limits of created nature. They include three great privileges to which human beings have no title—infused knowledge, absence of concupiscence¹³, and bodily immortality. Adam and Eve possessed these gifts before the fall.¹³ **Modern Catholic Dictionary. By Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. Page 437.** (Bold and underline mine.)

¹⁴ For example, man cannot pass through glass but LIGHT can. Light even passes through solid skin to a degree. If we could pass through glass or walls now, that would be an example of a preternatural gift.

Preternatural Gifts Adam And Eve Possessed Before “The Fall”

- Infused knowledge
- No suffering
- No illness
- No death
- No tendency to sin that subjugates Adam and Eve to the pleasures of their senses
- No tendency to sin that subjugates Adam and Eve to covetousness for earthly goods
- No tendency to sin that subjugates them to self-assertion that is contrary to the dictates of reason
- No “inclination to sin” (integrity of the passions, or “self-possession”)
- The ability to freely give of yourself and enter into communion with other peoples
- Special harmony between a man and a woman
- Special harmony between mankind and creation

But be careful not to confuse preternatural (consistent with our human nature) with the supernatural (above all nature and only directly from God).

CCC 357 Being in the image of God the human individual possesses the dignity of a person, who is not just something, but someone. **He is capable of self-knowledge, of self-possession and of freely giving himself and entering into communion with other persons.** And he is called by grace to a covenant with his Creator, to offer him a response of faith and love that no other creature can give in his stead.

CCC 376b . . . As long as he remained in the divine intimacy, **man would not have to suffer or die.**²⁵² **The inner harmony of the human person, the harmony between man and woman,**²⁵³ **and finally the harmony between the first couple and all creation, comprised the state called "original justice".**

See also CCC 377.

After the fall, Adam and Eve immediately lose their Original Holiness, Original Justice, and their special-powered nature (preternatural) gifts are also gone. Their human nature (immediately stripped of all these extra gifts) is wounded. Inclination to sin, suffering and the dying process now begins in man.

CCC 418 As a result of original sin, human nature is weakened in its powers, subject to ignorance, suffering and the domination of death, and inclined to sin (this inclination is called "concupiscence").

CCC 401 a,c After that first sin, the world is virtually inundated by sin . . . Scripture and the Church's Tradition continually recall the presence and *universality of sin in man's history*:

What Revelation makes known to us **is confirmed by our own experience.** For when man looks into his own heart he finds that he is drawn towards what is wrong and sunk in many **evils which cannot come from his good creator.** . . .

Chesterton once said concerning Original Sin¹⁵

G.K. CHESTERTON Original sin is the only doctrine that's been empirically validated by 2,000 years of human history.

The Test Of Mankind And “The Fall”

In this section, the story of The Fall is well-known so we will just read the headings. You can go back and read the corresponding Scriptures on your own.

Adam and Eve were in Paradise—the Garden of Eden (not Heaven).

CCC 384 Revelation makes known to us the **state of original holiness and justice** of man and woman before sin: from their friendship with God flowed the happiness of their existence in **paradise**.

But they were to be “tested” or tempted by the devil concerning the Tree of Knowledge.

We NEED free will and a voluntary act of love from mankind in order for us to freely CHOOSE Love (God).

The Test

(Adam And Eve Could Eat Of Any Fruit In The Garden Except The Tree Of Good And Evil)

GENESIS 2:9 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, **the tree of life** also in the midst of the garden, and **the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**.

Adam (and Eve) were told they could eat of ANY fruit in the garden except from the tree of knowledge.

They were told on the day they eat of it; they will die (Genesis 2:16-17).

Adam and Eve experienced a delightful bliss in paradise (Genesis 2:24-25).

Drawing-In Or Seductive Temptations Of Sin From The Serpent

GENESIS 3:1a, 4-5 1 Now the serpent was more subtle . . . 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil."

This initial fall is described by St. Paul as a “seducing¹⁶” of Eve from the devil. This is seen in the DRV (the RSVCE is not as clear on this passage¹⁷). “Man” (mankind) has been getting “seduced” ever since.

1st TIMOTHY 2:14 (DRV) 14 And Adam was not **seduced**; but the woman being **seduced**, was in the transgression.

¹⁵ For more witty Chesterton quotes please see Table .

¹⁶ This language of “seduction” explains in part why Old Covenant Israel is often described by God as a “harlot” (Hosea 1:2, Hosea 4:11-13, Isaiah 1:21, Jeremiah 3:1-11, Ezekiel 16:27-30 and elsewhere).

¹⁷ **1st TIMOTHY 2:13-14 (RSVCE)** 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve; 14 and Adam was not **deceived**, but the woman **was deceived** (Greek here¹⁷ has to do with “fruitfulness”) and became a transgressor.

CCC 398 In that sin man *preferred* himself to God and by that very act scorned him. He chose himself over and against God, against the requirements of his creaturely status and therefore against his own good. Constituted in a state of holiness, man was destined to be fully "divinized" by God in glory. Seduced by the devil, he wanted to "be like God", but "without God, before God, and not in accordance with God".²⁷⁹

The Fall

GENESIS 3:6 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate.

CCC 400 The harmony in which they had found themselves, thanks to original justice, is now destroyed: the control of the soul's spiritual faculties over the body is shattered; the union of man and woman becomes subject to tensions, their relations henceforth marked by lust and domination.²⁸² Harmony with creation is broken: visible creation has become alien and hostile to man.²⁸³ Because of man, creation is now subject "to its bondage to decay".²⁸⁴ Finally, the consequence explicitly foretold for this disobedience will come true: man will "return to the ground",²⁸⁵ for out of it he was taken. *Death makes its entrance into human history.*²⁸⁶

Adam and Eve were now aware of their nakedness and made clothing for themselves from fig leaves¹⁸ (see Genesis 3:7). (By the way. Fig leaves to human skin cause an irritating rash.)

The Reluctant Admission Of The Fall, And The New Disharmony Between Man And Woman

Now the reluctant admission of The Fall. Adam blames Eve. Eve blames the serpent (Genesis 3:11-13).

The result is curses from God which are eventually transformed by Christ to be medicinal blessings for mankind, including pain, and toil (Genesis 3:14-19) and of course death.

A New Lack Of Harmony Between Mankind And Nature

GENESIS 3:21 21 And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins, and clothed them.

The fact that God gave them garments of "skins" implies a blood animal sacrifice for sins here, and probably a Covenant or at least a "proto-Covenant" (see Genesis 6:18 and Hebrews 9:1, 22-23).

A blood sacrifice. Something we will see over and over with Covenants that CANNOT save. This shedding of blood should serve as a reminder of our weakness as mankind. Animal blood sacrifices could never "save" but are meant as a prefigurement or foreshadowing (Heb. 10:1) of the ONE Sacrifice (Jesus) that was to come that CAN save.

HEBREWS 10:4 4 For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.

¹⁸ Fig leaves by the way, are very irritating to human skin and will cause a rash. God shortly switched out their "apparel."

Again, shedding of blood, points to the fulfilled Covenant in Jesus' blood, which He gives to us through Baptism. But Jesus is not a mere "substitute". Rather by His unique one, once for all sacrifice Jesus allows us by grace, a PARTICIPATION IN HIM (becoming "partakers of the Divine nature"¹⁹) and participate in His death so we can have a participation in His Resurrection and everlasting life.

ROMANS 6:3, 5 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? . . . 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

CCC 460a The Word became flesh to make us "*partakers of the divine nature*":⁷⁸ "For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God."⁷⁹ . . .

We are NOT God. That's WHY we "BECOME" partakers. But God grafts us into a share of Himself by GRACE! Jesus' blood IS the New Covenant. Getting IN Jesus, is getting IN the New Covenant.

1st CORINTHIANS 11:24b-25a "**This is my body** which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is **the new covenant in my blood**. . . .

WHY Didn't God Intervene And Stop This Sin?

In being made in the image and likeness of God, we are gifted with free will. Without free will, man cannot freely love God. That free will includes the very real ability to REJECT God. Our sojourning on this earth is not a Divine "puppet show".

Evil is a MYSTERY (The "mystery of evil"). We can never know ALL about evil. But we DO know some things about evil. One thing we DO know is man CANNOT commit evil such that GOOD will come out of it (Romans 3:8).

ROMANS 3:8 8 And why not do evil that good may come?--as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

Machiavelli popularized (not invented) this false notion that we can do evil to bring a greater good out of it. Catholic Christians reject the notion of "The ends justify the means".

We don't assert: "Sometimes you must break a few eggs to get an omelet." That being said, GOD is ALMIGHTY and HE can take OUR evil and bring a greater good out of it, but **woe** to those who are carrying out that evil that good may come out of it (Matthew 11:21, 18:7, Mark 14:20, Luke 6:24-26, and elsewhere)!

¹⁹ **2nd PETER 1:3-4** 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and **become partakers of the divine nature**.

Jesus takes on our nature, and via Baptism He allows us to participate in His nature at the same time!

MATTHEW 26:24a 24 The Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed!

In one sense, the Church laments over Adam's sin calling it a "fault".

But the Church likewise rejoices in a sense in the fall, for God takes our evil and mysteriously brings out a greater good (yet another way of showing God's omnipotent power and goodness).

On Easter Vigil night we even have in the Liturgy (in the Latin Rite) **"O happy fault" of Adam** recognizing Christ's triumph over sin and everlasting death (so we may freely choose to partake in that gift)! God brings a GREATER GOOD out of sin (but we can't do that).

CCC 412 But *why did God not prevent the first man from sinning?* St. Leo the Great responds, "**Christ's inexpressible grace gave us blessings better than those the demon's envy had taken away.**"³⁰⁷ And St. Thomas Aquinas wrote, "There is nothing to prevent human nature's being raised up to something greater, even after sin; God permits evil in order to draw forth some greater good. Thus St. Paul says, 'Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more'; and the Exsultet sings, 'O happy fault, . . . which gained for us so great a Redeemer!'"³⁰⁸

God Prophecying A Greater Good - Blessings From God Among The Curses

GENESIS 3:15 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Eve is the mother of all the living on a natural level. The Blessed Virgin Mary, the "New Eve" will be the mother of all the living on a supernatural level (See CCC 511).

GENESIS 3:20 20 The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

The Banishment Of Adam And Eve (And Their Eventual Offspring) From The Garden

GENESIS 3:24 24 He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Mankind is now disfigured by sin. The GRACE of mankind's original holiness and justice is dead. His preternatural gifts are gone. Mankind's NATURE is wounded and disfigured.

CCC 705a Disfigured by sin and death, man remains "in the image of God," in the image of the Son, but is deprived "of the glory of God,"⁶⁶ of his "likeness." The promise made to Abraham inaugurates the economy of salvation . . .

**But despite the Fall, humanity still remains in the image and likeness of God!
Our nature was not completely destroyed by sin.**

As a matter-of-fact, Jesus takes on our nature completely (except for the sin).

"The promise" is being placed IN Christ (baptism).

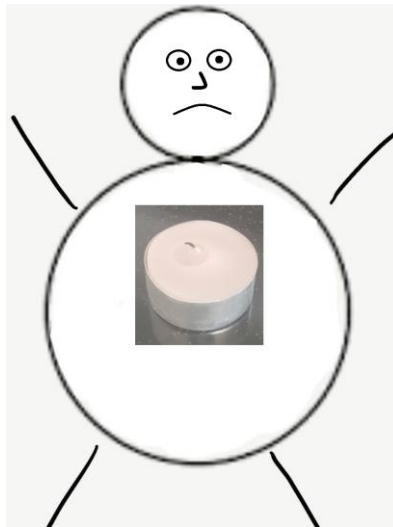
HEBREWS 2:17 17 Therefore **he had to be made like his brethren in every respect**, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people.

ST. IRENAEUS "For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God."²⁰

Jesus Christ is ONE Person: A Divine Person. But He has TWO NATURES. One: A DIVINE NATURE (Heb. 1:3) and Two: A HUMAN NATURE as Heb. 2:14 says ("yet without sin"). FULLY God AND now fully Man.

HEBREWS 1:3a, 2:14a, 17b 4:15 3 He reflects **the glory of God** and bears the very stamp of **his nature** . . .
. . . . **he had to be made like his brethren in every respect**, . . . 14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise **partook of the same nature** . . . to make expiation for the sins of the people . . . 15 For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, **yet without sin**.

Man (Adam And Eve) Now Have A Fallen Nature



The lighted tea-candle inside of Adam that was a symbolic representation of
"Original Holiness and Original Justice" is now symbolically **extinguished**.
Adam (and Eve) **LACKS** Original Holiness And Justice and now have **A Fallen Nature**

Man now has a fallen nature. Original Holiness and Justice and the preternatural gifts are gone. If Adam and Eve would have had offspring BEFORE the Fall, they would have mysteriously passed on their non-fallen "constitution" to their children. But Adam and Eve LACK that "constitution" now.

²⁰ St. Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*. 3, 19, 1: PG 7/1, 939. See also CCC 460. See also St. Athanasius theologoumenon ("For the Son of God became man so that we might become God.", Psalm 82:6-8, and 2nd Peter 1:4.

What Does All This Mean For The Offspring Of Adam And Eve?

We are not held accountable for the sins of our parents (concerning our judgment). Only OUR sins. God does not carry out punishment for “**collective guilt**”.

CCC 405a Although it is proper to each individual,²⁹⁵ original sin does not have the character of a personal fault in any of Adam's descendants. . . .

EZEKIEL 18:20b (NIV) . . . The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor the parent share the guilt of the child. . .

Then WHY do we INHERIT Original Sin?

It has been loosely quipped that God always forgives, man sometimes forgives, but **nature never forgives**.

The best any person or animal can give to their offspring is their own **nature**.

Bear with me a moment:

“Mama” and “daddy” eagles have what? Baby eagles.

“Mama” and “daddy” cats have what? Baby cats.

“Mama” and “daddy” dogs have what? Baby dogs.

The best you can do, is give your own NATURE to your offspring.

We have a **human** nature.

So what do “mama” and “daddy” human people have? Baby human people.

But ours is now a **FALLEN** human nature.

So what do “**FALLEN NATURE** mama” and “**FALLEN Nature** daddy” human people have? **FALLEN NATURE** babies. That’s WHY even innocent, sinless babies still experience suffering, sickness and even sometimes death (because of their **inherited fallen nature**—an Original Sin nature).

Babies have a nature consistent with their parents (just like eagles, cats, and dogs).

Remember. The best you can give to your own offspring **is your own nature**.

Remember also, we cannot attain unto Heaven even if we were perfect (i.e. if we died as infants before we could commit a sin) that still is not good enough to “**DESERVE**” Heaven.

NOBODY “DESERVES” Heaven!

So via Adam and Eve, we’re **ALL** by **NATURE**, “**children of wrath**” & is WHY St. Paul explicitly states this.

EPHESIANS 2:2b-3 2b . . . the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among these **we all** once lived in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of body and mind, and so **we were BY NATURE children of wrath**, like **the rest of mankind**.

HOW Can We Possibly Be Saved Then?

So man is in a fallen state. His offspring will inherit his nature, a fallen nature.
So HOW can a man be saved with a FALLEN nature?

God is **perfectly JUST** so He cannot just say, "Ok. You are fallen but you can come into Heaven anyway."
But fortunately, God is ALSO **perfectly MERCIFUL**.

Q: Yes but so what? I mean despite His great mercy; HOW can I be saved?

A: You can't . . . on your own. But there is a remedy. You must be incorporated INTO God almighty.

But the problem with that is we LACK God's nature.

Right. So part of the remedy is God takes OUR NATURE upon Himself! (Then incorporates us INTO Him.)

Objection: A lot of good that will do "fallen me". HOW can that help me?

Answer: It gives you the opportunity to be re-CREATED **IN** CHRIST. (This is WHY it was a "happy fault").

2nd CORINTHIANS 5:17 17 Therefore, **if any one is IN Christ, he IS a new creation**; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.

Great! But HOW can I get INTO Jesus? How can I get into the Body of Christ? Fortunately, we are told how

When man gets Baptized, they have put on Christ and become re-birthed²¹ as a NEW creation.

GALATIANS 3:27-29 27 For **as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ**.

1st CORINTHIANS 12:13 13 For by one Spirit **we were all baptized into one body**--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

What Happens To Fallen Mankind AFTER He Is Baptized?

The grace of Baptism regenerates our soul. But it does NOT regenerate our NATURE.

The consequences of Original Sin for our nature persist in man.

But baptism is just **the beginning, the gateway** to the Christian life (CCC 1213). There will be MORE.
Remember, baptized Christians still are subject to sin, suffering, death (Romans 6:23), etc.

²¹ **JOHN 3:5, 22** 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God**. . . . 22 After this **Jesus and his disciples** went into the land of Judea; there he remained with them and **baptized**.



Baptized Man. He NOW has THE SUN (SON) in him.

NO mere little lighted tea-candle in him now.

The sun schematically of course represents God via the GRACE of Baptism.

NOW he DOES have the Trinitarian GRACE of "SUPER-LIGHT" from the ~~sun~~ "SON"!

So our kids contract Original Sin not because they did something wrong,
but because of the NATURE they received that was PASSED on from their parents.

CCC 405 Although it is proper to each individual,²⁹⁵ **original sin does not have the character of a personal fault** in any of Adam's descendants. It is a **deprivation of original holiness and justice**, but **human nature has not been totally corrupted**: it is wounded in the natural powers proper to it, subject to ignorance, suffering and the dominion of death, and inclined to sin - an inclination to evil that is called concupiscence". Baptism, by imparting the life of Christ's grace, erases original sin and turns a man back towards God, **but the consequences for nature, weakened and inclined to evil, persist in man and summon him to spiritual battle.**

Our **BODILY** nature gets transformed later, at the end of time when we get a new and glorified BODY.

Question: Great! Now I can have child and pass on the GRACE of the life of Christ in me?

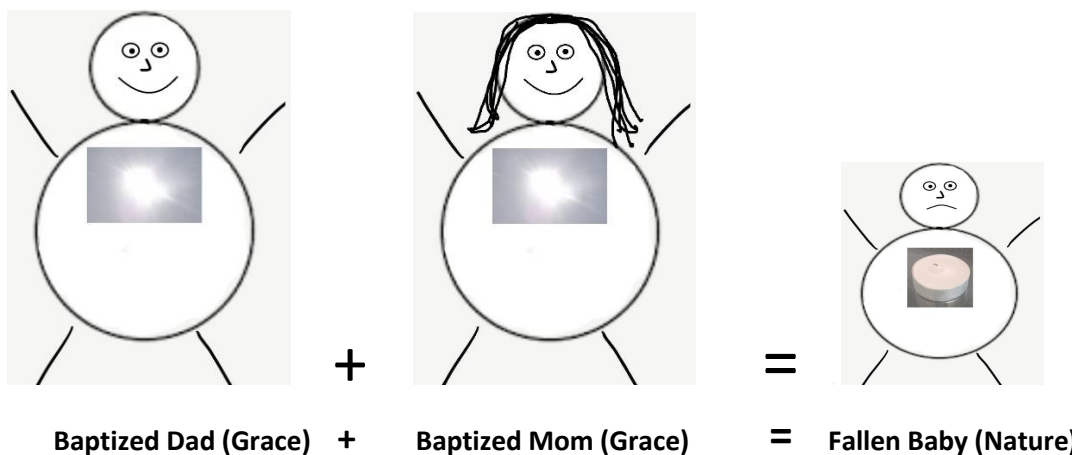
Answer: No. Remember. The best you can do is **pass on YOUR NATURE** to your children.
Not your GRACE.

Since your nature is FALLEN, you pass on a FALLEN nature to your children; not your GRACE.

Yikes! What about the children of my spouse and I? I mean the BEST I can pass on to them is my NATURE!! And that is a FALLEN NATURE! That means my children will NOT have the life of GRACE merely from being born!

That's right. That means ALL OF MANKIND are, "by NATURE, children of wrath" **as St Paul said!**

Yikes! My children will then NOT have even a "lighted tea candle" in them merely by being born! They will not have the life of grace that I have now at their birth! They will receive MY FALLEN NATURE!



That's correct. Again, the BEST you can give to your offspring is your own nature. And since you have a fallen nature, the best you can give to your children is a fallen nature.

And people with a fallen nature still get sick, suffer, die (infants even die don't they?), and have this "pull" or inclination toward sin.

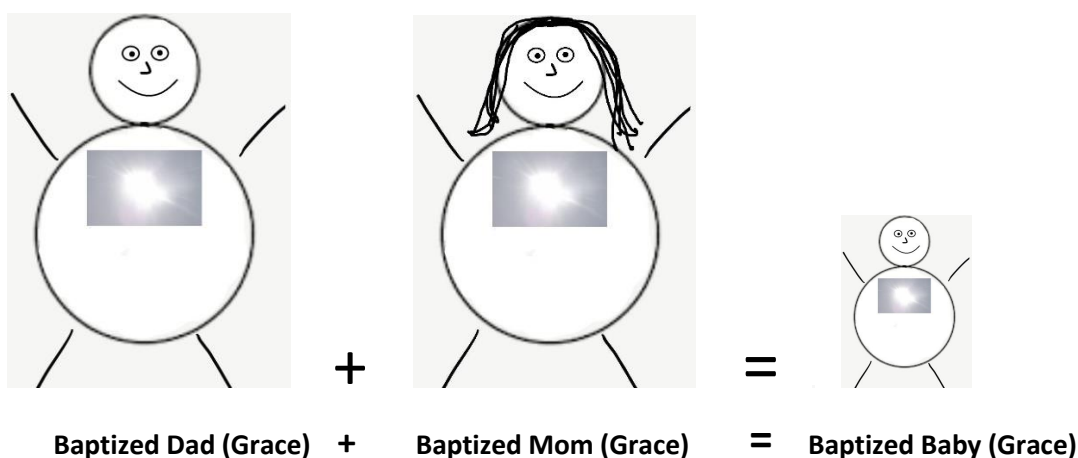
Q: So what is the remedy for my children?

A: "The Promise" is the remedy. "The Promise" made to Abraham²². The Promise that puts us INTO Christ via the Holy Spirit. Baptism²³.

Q: This promise is for me. But is this promise for my children?

A: Fortunately Sacred Scripture answers this question . . .

ACTS 2:37-39 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent, and **be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For **the promise is to you and to your children** and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him."



²² See also Genesis 15:5, 22:16-18, and Luke 1:54-55 and Luke 1:73-73 and CCC 706 ("solemn oath").

²³ The Eucharist and Confirmation are the other two Sacraments of initiation and are also part of "the promise".

In Conclusion

CCC 404c . . . “By yielding to the tempter, Adam and Eve committed a *personal sin*, but **this sin affected the *human nature*** that they would then transmit *in a fallen state*.²⁹⁴ It is a sin which will be transmitted by propagation to all mankind, that is, by the transmission of a human nature deprived of original holiness and justice. And that is why original sin is called "sin" only in an analogical sense: it is a sin "contracted" and not "committed" - a state and not an act.

In Summary

- We looked at the importance of the doctrine of Original Sin foundationally for the Christian life.
- We reviewed what “sin” is.
- We saw Adam and Eve made with “original holiness” and “original justice” and looked briefly at the definition of Original Sin.
- We went back through creation expounding particularly on the creation of man.
- We saw man’s created nature and how God even ADDED special preternatural gifts to us.
- We reviewed “The Fall” and the results of that catastrophe upon our nature.
- We looked at not only the banishment from Paradise, but God prophesying a remedy for this devastation.
- We saw how mankind can ONLY pass on their own nature to their children keeping in mind, that man’s nature is now injured.
- And we looked at just the beginning of that remedy (Baptism) for our injured nature for us and for our children!

Thank you for participating in this Bible study.

We will close with any comments and a word of prayer.
May God richly bless you.