

Are Babies Born Sinners?

by Heath Rogers

Some churches teach that babies are born into this world totally depraved, having inherited this sinful condition from their parents. They claim that all babies are born in need of salvation because the spiritual consequences of Adam's sin have been passed on to all of mankind. What does the Bible say about the spiritual condition of babies?

While it is true that all of mankind continues to suffer because of Adam's sin, we do not individually bear the guilt of his sin before God. The Bible teaches that God holds individuals responsible for their own actions, not the actions of their parents. "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" (Ezek. 18:20). The Bible also teaches that each one of us will give an account of ourselves unto God (Rom. 14:11-12). However, if we are all born in a state of corruption through no fault of our own, what are we being held accountable for?

Psalm 51:5 has been offered as proof that we are all born in sin. This verse reads, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me." David wrote this psalm after he had been confronted about the sin he had committed with Bathsheba. The language of this entire psalm shows that David was exaggerating to emphasize the guilt that he felt. This fact is especially seen in verse four where David stated, "Against You, You only have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight..." David did not just sin against God. He obviously sinned against Bathsheba and her husband Uriah. However, because of the enormity of his guilt, nothing else mattered to David than the fact that he had sinned against God. Why would David say that he had been brought forth in iniquity and sin? The reason is because he was overwhelmed with the reality of the sin that he had committed.

Let us reconcile this passage with a statement made by David in another psalm. "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well" (Psalm 139:13-14). David says that God is the one who formed him as he developed in his mother's womb. If David was conceived in sin and brought forth in iniquity, then it was God's doing! What David calls "wonderful" and "marvelous" some choose to call sinful and corrupt.

Those who believe that babies are born in sin need to acknowledge the logical conclusion of this belief. If babies are "born of sinful fallen parents," if they were "created in the womb from the tainted clay" of their parents, then we must conclude that Jesus was born a sinner. Galatians 4:4 says that Jesus was born of a woman. Luke 3:38 says that Jesus was born the son of Adam. Hebrews 2:17 says "Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren..." Wouldn't "all things" include our inherited sin? If not, it wouldn't be "all things," would it? We know that Jesus was not a sinner. Any doctrine that leads us to such a conclusion should be rejected immediately.

Any builder knows that he needs a solid foundation upon which to build. If the foundation is not strong and level, the structure that is built upon it will not be sound. The practice of Infant Baptism is based upon a faulty foundation – the belief that babies are born sinners. The unsoundness of this doctrine has been demonstrated by the very arguments recently found in this newspaper to defend it. Statements such as "one could truly argue that an infant does a better job of confessing the faith as it is being baptized than an adult ever does" and "As Mk. 16:16 doesn't mean one must believe BEFORE being Baptized, Acts 2 doesn't mean one must be able to

confess sin before being Baptized” and “the truth is, infants can believe in Jesus” simply do not make any sense. One must deny the meaning of words and twist their usage in order to make such claims. Unfortunately, such arguments are necessary in order to prop up this error (Infant Baptism) because it is based upon a faulty foundation (the belief that babies are born sinners).

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