

The Three Eternal Destinies #125 Sin is Self-centeredness

Refraining from doing what one knows is good for the other person is sin. Man has no excuse because man was created to do good and man knows the good to do and the evil not to do (Gen 3:22). Man knows that evil is not right, and man knows the difference between right and wrong, between good and evil. Man knows the right thing to do, and if a man knows the right thing to do, that is, the good to do, but chooses not to do it, it is sin (Jms 4:17), because sin is self-centeredness. Anyone then who knows the good he ought to do and does not do it sins (Rom 6:23).

So refraining from doing what one knows is good is sin, the sin of omission, just as surely as doing the wrong thing is sin, the sin of commission. The reason we do not do what is right is that we think it is not in our own interest to do so. Such self-centeredness is the basis for all sins. Man was made in God's likeness, and even after the Fall (Gen 3:22) God said, "Man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil." Man knows the difference between good and evil. He is endowed with the gift from God to distinguish the difference, so that (Rom 1:18-21) he can never excuse or justify himself before God on the Day of Judgment (Heb 9:27; Rom 2:6-10; Rev 20:12-13; Rom 2:14-16). Mankind, although they know good and evil, being like God in this way, have marred this likeness of God's image and likeness in them. Rom 1:32 — Even though man knows that doing such things brings down the judgment of eternal death, he goes right on doing these things which he knows are wrong and applauds others who do them (as in the TV series "Ellen" where the whole world applauded). Isa 5:20 — Woe to those!

God entrusted fallen mankind with His life-giving instructions deep within the heart (Rom 2:14-15) of all human beings, and living by these instructions (Gen 3:16-19; 9:1-7) is a matter of eternal life or eternal death, depending upon the results of the judgment to come. Human nature knows, like God himself, the difference between good and evil, so man is responsible for making the right choices (Gen 3:22; Ecc 7:20 NRSV; Rom 3:23; 6:23).

Fallen man, if he does what is right, will be accepted into the eternal kingdom of God prepared for him (Gen 4:7; Mt 25:34,46; Acts 10:35; Ecc 7:20 NRSV). But if man sins in the same nature of sin as Cain, he will not be accepted (Gen 4:13), but his punishment will be eternal, as the kind of sins in Rev 21:8 and 22:15. All men sin, but not like Cain (Ecc 7:20 NRSV Bible). Abel and Seth sinned, but not the same nature of sin as Cain and others who ignored the voice of their conscience, which is the knowledge of good and evil. Cain could not pay for his sin or sins by his own death as could Abel and Seth and others, even Lot, by their first death (Heb 9:27). Cain could not bear the punishment for his sin where Abel could, as Rom 6:23 says, since the vast majority of people who have lived on earth never even heard of forgiveness through Jn 3:16 by a sent one (Jn 7:18; Mt 10:41; Jn 3:18; 13:20) so man would have to be judged according to what he did or didn't do (James 4:17). Woe to the time when man calls evil good and good evil (Isa 5:20; 7:15-16; 1 Kng 3:9; Mic 3:2; Amos 5:14,15; Jer 42:6; Isa 41:43).

Man in his fallen state is endowed with "the knowledge of the good" but he knows that he is weak and so he is dependent upon his Creator (through his conscience). Rom 1:19,21 and Ps 19 is the everlasting good news of the Everlasting Covenant (Isa 24:5-6). Gen 4:26 — Man has always called on the Creator to help him in his time of need. It was not actually the NAME of YHWH (the personal name which was only revealed to Moses) that they called on back then. This is one of those difficult passages in the Bible. Saying, "began to call upon the name" means that they invoked the help of Deity (that is how far back Deists go). Man sensed his desperate need as "the deist" down through history. Even in America's beginnings, men had enough sense to see that Christians were not calling on the same God as the god of the Deist. God-fearers could instinctively tell that the Christian god was unjust and hated mankind instead of loving them (Jn 3:16) and that the Christian had called on the wrong god, as Jms 2:19, morally incorrect all the while doctrinally correct.

Ecc 7:20 NRSV — Surely there is no one on earth so righteous as to do good and not ever sin (Rom 3:23; 6:23; Heb 9:27 NRSV).