

## WHY DO PEOPLE SUFFER FOR THE SIN OF ADAM?

1. People suffer for sin because we possess the same exact fallen nature as possessed by our forefathers. In other words, we have inherited all the immaterial aspects of our fore-fathers by virtue of being their progeny. In the same way that people inherit genetic dispositions, personality and physical characteristics—we also inherit a fallen sinful nature. This concept called “Traducianism” states that every human possesses an organic union with the first couple. This view is eloquently expressed by theologian Millard Erickson who observes, *“We receive our souls by transmission from our parents, just as we do our physical natures. So we were present in germinal or seminal form in our ancestors....His action was not merely that of one isolated individual, but of the entire human race. Although we were not there individually, we were nonetheless there. The human race sinned as a whole. Thus, there is nothing unfair or improper about our receiving a corrupted nature and guilt from Adam, for we are receiving the just results of our sin.”*
2. The doctrine of original sin (what we inherited from the original Adam) is taught through the Bible. Romans 5:12 says “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.” Romans 5:18 states, “one trespass led to condemnation for all men”. Of course, this is not simply a Pauline doctrine. Even David the Psalmist in Psalm 51:5 writes, “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me”.
3. The concept of original sin is also affirmed on a regular basis by the profound presence of horrific sin throughout humanity. Think of the sin and evilness which is pervasive throughout all time and within every single culture. What else would explain this common thread throughout all of humanity? Original sin! Even proponents of evolution affirm this reality. Consider the comments of Michael Ruse, a non-Christian Darwinist, whose views support the historic Christian position on original sin, *“I think Christianity is spot on about original sin—how could one think otherwise, when the world’s most civilized and advanced people (the people of Beethoven, Goethe, Kant) embraced that slime-ball Hitler and participated in the Holocaust? I think Saint Paul and the great Christian philosophers had real insights into sin and freedom and responsibility, and I want to build on this rather than turn from it.”*