

# SIN AND ITS EFFECTS

Grace

## NATURE OF SIN

- Turning against God
  - Corruption
  - Guilt

## SEVERITY OF SIN (SEE ANSELM, CUR DEUS HOMO)

- Turning away from the creator
  - Guilt
- State of rebellion against the creator
  - Debt of punishment
- Refusal of God
  - Stain
- Deformation of our nature
  - Corruption
- Original sin and actual sin

## ORIGINAL SIN

- What it is
- How it is passed on
- Original Sin and actual sin

## THE STATE OF SIN (SEE MAXIMUS THE CONFESSOR, AMONG OTHERS)

- We are no longer open to the presence of God
- We act out of fear rather than trust
- Short-term pleasure becomes the only option
- Vices: gluttony, fornication, avarice, grief, wrath, listlessness, vainglory, pride
- Our desire is confused and unfocused. It has the effect of splintering the human into thousands
- Double separation from God and from neighbor, separation from love

## POWERS OF FALLEN NATURE (SEE THOMAS AQUINAS, ST I Q. 109)

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Truth                       | • Meriting eternal life    |
| • Good acts                   | • Preparation for grace    |
| • Loving God                  | • Rising from sin          |
| • Loving neighbor             | • Avoiding sin             |
| • Fulfilling the commandments | • Perseverance in the good |

## INTEGRITY OF FALLEN NATURE

- Orthodox: Dim awareness of reality, potential for God, proneness toward sin
- Calvinist: Total depravity, inability to do any good
- Catholic
  - Recognition of the good
  - True desire for the beautiful
  - Ability to recognize pleasure
  - Knowledge of the true

- Dim awareness of reality
- Potential for God

## THE REMEDY

What we need: Restoration of the openness to God; Removal of that which prevents us from receiving God's presence; Healing of our nature; Elevation of our nature

## ISSUES IN ORIGINAL SIN

- What is natural?
  - What does it look like to be saved?
  - What does it feel like to be saved?
- Holiness
- Evil
  - What is evil?
  - Doing evil
  - Acts that bring about good and evil
  - Culpability
  - Mortal and venial sin
- Salvation
  - What are we saved from?
  - What are we saved for?
- Awaiting the kingdom
  - Engagement with the physical
  - Engagement with the intellectual
  - Engagement with the will
- The life of grace
  - How do we know grace?
  - What does grace feel like?
  - How does grace engage our will?
  - How does grace change us?

## HUMANS AND CREATION

What is full humanity?

- Revelation in Jesus
- The example of Mary
- Abstracting from sin
- Holding firm to the goodness of the world

## WHO ARE WE MEANT TO BE?

### HUMAN NATURE

- Body-soul-spirit-mind unity
- Orientation towards the good
  - Body desires well
  - Mind knows clearly
  - Will chooses for the best
- The soul

### UNIQUENESS OF HUMANITY

- Image of God
- Likeness of God
- Individual uniqueness
- Individual vocation
- The beauty of particularity

### MEDIATORS

- Place where God and creation meet
- Definitive free acceptance of God's love

- Experiencing God

### INCOMPLETENESS OF HUMANITY

- Need to be confirmed in freedom
- Essential precarious nature of freedom

### PARTICIPANTS IN THE DIVINE NATURE

- Indwelling of God
- Completion by the Holy Spirit
- Grace in Eden
- The necessity of grace

### DESTINY OF HUMANITY

- Acceptance of God
- Supernatural existence
- Supernatural law
- The problem of the "necessary sin"